

Thatcher calls off Reagan talks

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has told President Reagan she cannot make a planned visit to Washington later this month because of Britain's forthcoming general election, a statement from her office said Tuesday. But the question of whether Mrs. Thatcher will go to the seven-nation economic summit at Williamsburg, Virginia, is still open. The statement said a decision on who will represent Britain at the summit from May 28 to 30 would be made nearer the time. The British leader had been due to visit Washington from May 26 to May 28 to confer with Mr. Reagan in advance of the summit and receive an award for encouraging Anglo-American cooperation. But her plans to travel to the United States this month and West Germany next month for a European Community heads of government summit have been thrown into doubt by the June 9 election she called Monday.



U.S.: Mideast situation not alarming

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon is not alarmed about the situation in the Middle East despite reports of mounting tensions between Syria and Israel, Defence Department spokesman Henry Catto said Tuesday. Asked about recent Soviet statements on the conflict, Mr. Catto told a press conference: "Nobody views the current situation as being particularly alarming. The Soviets frequently say things for propaganda purposes." On Monday the official Soviet news agency TASS repeated a Kremlin allegation that Israel was preparing to attack Syria. Mr. Catto said he had no evidence to confirm American television reports that the number of Syrian troops and Palestinian forces in Lebanon was increasing. He also contradicted a senior Israeli official who said the departure of Soviet diplomats' wives and children from Beirut Monday was intended to create a war scare.

Volume 8 Number 2259

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY MAY 11, 1983 — RAJAB 28, 1403

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

IDB lends \$50m to Jordan

JEDDAH (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) said Tuesday it signed an agreement with Jordan to finance \$20 million of Saudi Arabian crude oil imports. The Jeddah-based bank has now financed about \$50 million of foreign trade for Jordan in the last eight months.

Israeli shot dead in Gaza Strip

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli was shot dead in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Tuesday, military officials said. Menaheem Dadon, 24, a member of a nearby kibbutz, was shopping in the main market of Gaza when he was shot at close range in the neck. He was pronounced dead on the spot. Israeli security forces placed a curfew on Gaza—the main city in the densely populated Gaza Strip—and were conducting searches, the officials said.

Bombs rock Belfast

BELFAST (R) — Bombs blasted four city centre stores in Belfast during the night and a fifth bomb was defused by army experts, police said Tuesday. They said the explosions started fires in the four buildings and badly damaged them but nobody was hurt. Such bombings are normally carried out by Irish guerrillas seeking to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

3 French naval units in Egypt

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Three ships of the French Mediterranean fleet, headed by the 32,000-tonne aircraft carrier Kocb arrived in Alexandria Tuesday at the start of a week-long friendly visit. French navy officials said there were 80 warplanes aboard the Kocb including 20 Super-Etendards.

1 killed, 2 injured in Bahrain fire

BAHRAIN (R) — One company employee was killed and two were seriously injured Tuesday when fire broke out in a section of Bahrain's major oil refinery, an official statement said.

TASS condemns Japanese patrols

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet news agency TASS condemned Japanese naval patrols which began Tuesday off the Soviet island of Sakhalin, calling them a provocation and a violation of the freedom of navigation. TASS said that the patrols along La Perouse (Soya) Strait between Sakhalin and the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido were part of a U.S. strategy aimed at blockading Soviet ports in time of crisis.

CORRECTION: The Jordan Times issue of Tuesday, May 10, 1983, in its coverage of the two explosions in Amman Monday, inadvertently reported Amidest as the acronym for American Friends of the Middle East. The right name of the organisation is America-Mideast Educational and Training Services. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

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Internal militia clashes subside in Lebanon Syrians reportedly fire at Israeli jet

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian forces in Lebanon were reported to have fired at an Israeli plane Tuesday as tension grew in the face of stalemate over a pull-out of Israeli and Syrian troops.

State-run Beirut Radio said a Syrian position south-west of the eastern town of Zahle fired six rounds at an Israeli high-altitude reconnaissance plane. It did not say whether the plane was hit.

An Israeli military spokesman near Beirut categorically denied there had been any such incident. Lebanese observers said the report of Syrian anti-aircraft fire against an Israeli plane was the first they could recall since Israel invaded Lebanon last June.

Although serious artillery clashes between rival Lebanese militias have subsided over the last two days, tension has risen as Lebanese await movement in efforts to get Israeli, Syrian and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces out of their country.

Lebanon and Israel have agreed in principle on an accord for the withdrawal of all but a handful of Israeli troops.

But Israel has made the accord dependent on a pull-out of Syrian troops and PLO fighters, while Damascus and the PLO refuse to move unless every single Israeli leaves.

Most Lebanese listen avidly to their radios to hear what is going on. Reports, such as Tuesday's, of Israeli-Syrian incidents raise fears that their country could become a battlefield for two foreign powers.

The departure from Beirut of 87 wives and children of Soviet diplomats Monday was another event which fuelled speculation.

There could be new fighting in Lebanon.

Many Lebanese wondered whether the Soviet Union, Syria's ally, knew something that they did not. But the Soviet ambassador in Beirut, Alexandre Soldatov, scoffed at such suggestions Tuesday and said the children were merely taking an early summer holiday.

Pressed by reporters, Mr. Soldatov said the departure of the Soviet families was routine although he conceded they were leaving earlier than usual.

A senior Israeli official charged the Soviet Union was trying to create a "war-scare" to frighten Lebanon into not signing the U.S.-backed troop withdrawal deal.

Habib leaves for Israel

A senior Israeli official charged the Soviet Union was trying to create a "war-scare" to frighten Lebanon into not signing the U.S.-backed troop withdrawal deal.

U.S. special envoy Philip Habib left Beirut for Israel Tuesday in a new shuttle to clear up points raised by Israel about the accord.

The senior Israeli official, who declined to be named, said the Lebanon-Israel agreement, negotiated by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in recent trips between Lebanon and Israel, could be signed within two weeks.

However, diplomatic sources in Beirut said some Lebanese leaders were showing impatience over Israel's demands for clarification and felt the Israelis were trying to gain further concessions in annexes to the accord.

President Amin Gemayel Tuesday called in the ambassadors or charges d'affaires of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, mainly to brief them on the state of the troop withdrawal efforts, diplomats said.

The president's talks with the diplomatic representatives of the U.S., Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union, who saw him individually, also covered the tense security situation in the country, they added.

The diplomatic sources said the draft Lebanese-Israeli accord proposed alterations in the deployment of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and could therefore require approval by the Security Council.

The UNIFIL troops were sent to Lebanon in 1978 to help maintain security in the south.

"PLO forces move in"

Meanwhile, a convoy has crossed from Syria to Lebanon carrying 500 to 600 fighters of the PLO, the American Broadcasting Company said Monday night.

It quoted U.S. intelligence sources as saying the convoy crossed the border last Friday, comprised 40 lorries and also carried weapons ranging from small arms to heavy mortars.

The network put the number of PLO fighters in Lebanon at between 12,000 and 15,000. Syrian strength in Lebanon was given at slightly fewer than 50,000 troops, with intelligence sources quoted as saying that 10,000 were added during the past few months.

The network said without attribution that 5,000 Soviet military advisers were stationed in Syria and that Moscow had sent arms worth \$2 billion to the Damascus government in less than a year.

Weinberger to hold talks with Prince Sultan, Hernu

PARIS (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger arrived in Paris Tuesday for a visit that will include talks with the Saudi Arabian Defence Minister, Prince Sultan, American officials said.

Mr. Weinberger, in Paris at the same time as Secretary of State George Shultz, is also due to see French Defence Minister Charles Hernu, the officials said.

(Continued on page 3)

'Political impasse blocks Lebanese reconstruction'

BAHRAIN (R) — There can be no meaningful start to Lebanon's \$15-billion reconstruction programme until the current impasse over troop withdrawal is resolved, a Lebanese banker said here Tuesday.

Meguerditch Bouldoukian, senior vice-president of Beirut's Bank Libano Francaise, said that while some priority projects could be implemented, "the programme cannot start until public order is restored in all parts of the country."

In the interim, external aid to the war-ravaged country was caught in a political vicious circle, he told a Euroforum magazine conference here on Arab financial markets.

The World Bank wants Arab (Continued on page 3)

Brisk voting in S.Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Brisk voting was reported Tuesday in three vital South African by-elections in which the electorate has its first chance to comment on controversial government proposals for reform.

Election officials said that in some areas almost 50 per cent of eligible voters had cast ballots by lunchtime and an unusually high poll was expected.

The elections are regarded by both right and left as a stiff test of government plans for constitutional reform which would give a limited measure of power to Asians and coloureds (people of mixed race) although ignoring the country's blacks who make up 70 per cent of the population.

In the two traditionally bantustan northern Transvaal constituencies of Waterberg and Soutpansberg, the ruling National Party faces a tough challenge from the right-wing Conservative Party which has labelled the reform plans a betrayal of the whites.

Manpower Minister Fanie Botha, who precipitated the by-elections by challenging Con-

servative leader Andries Treurnicht to test his popularity at the polls, is defending the normally safe National Party seat in Soutpansberg. Political analysts say he could lose.

Mr. Treurnicht himself is defending the Waterberg seat he won for the National Party in the 1981 general election before leading a split in the party last year over the government's reformist plans.

The third challenge, in the plush Pretoria suburb of Waterkloof, comes from the anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party.

A normally safe National Party majority there is in danger of being split with the entry of a Conservative candidate.

But analysts said it was the results in the two northern by-elections that would have the most influence on the future reform path of Prime Minister P.W. Botha.

They said Conservative victories there or even narrow National Party margins could pressure Mr. Botha to slow down his plans for change.



SIDON PROTESTS: Demonstrators, protesting against the killing of a youth and wounding of five others by Israeli soldiers in an orphanage in South Lebanon, Monday block roads with blazing tyres. Israeli forces opened fire on the demonstrators, wounding two. (A.P. wirephoto)

Syria warns of 'unlimited war'

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Tuesday that any Israeli aggression would lead to "unlimited war" and made clear its forces were prepared to fight in Lebanon if necessary.

State-run Damascus Radio said in a commentary that Syria had decided to repel danger not only from its own airspace or over its border, but also from Lebanese territory.

It added: "Any Israeli aggression against Syria would mean an unlimited war."

The warning followed remarks by Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam Monday that he considered an Israeli attack against Syria and a resultant war "very likely."

Some 40,000 Syrian troops are stationed in Lebanon, with a further 8,000 to 8,500 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters behind their lines. They confront a 25,000-strong Israeli force which invaded Lebanon last June.

Shultz urges Soviets to back Lebanon pact

PARIS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Tuesday called on the Soviet Union to "take another look and to get on the side of peace in Lebanon."

Mr. Shultz was speaking at a Paris press conference where he said he had met the Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, earlier in the day.

The secretary of state was asked to comment on an attack by the Soviet news agency TASS on the plan which he negotiated with Israel and Lebanon for withdrawal of Israeli forces.

"I would call upon the Soviet Union to take another look and to get on the side of peace in Lebanon," Mr. Shultz said.

He said he hoped the Soviets would be as "equally dedicated" to the cause of peace in the Middle East as the United States and said there could be U.S.-Soviet contacts on the subject in various international forums.

Mr. Shultz, in Paris for a meeting of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), said the Iraqi vice-premier had expressed support for the withdrawal of Syrian and Palestinian forces.

"There is a certain wave of Arab opinion developing that withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon is called for," Mr. Shultz said.

Mr. Shultz said he also discussed with Mr. Aziz Iraq's 32-month-old war with Iran and "our desire to see it end and some possible ways about going about it."

Tunis proposes postponement of OAU summit

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has proposed that the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit due to be held in Addis Ababa from June 6 to 11 should be postponed, the Tunisian news agency TAP reported Tuesday.

The agency quoted Tunisian Foreign Secretary Mahmoud Mestiri as saying Monday night in Dakar that "certain problems" should be settled first if the summit was to be a success.

Mr. Mestiri, who was in Senegal to deliver a message from President Habib Bourguiba to President Abdou Diouf, did not specify which problems he meant.

Observers said he was probably referring to a decision by the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), proclaimed by the Polisario Front, to attend the summit.

Its presence at the first abortive meeting in Tripoli caused a boycott led by Morocco.

A recent special commission on U.S. strategic nuclear forces—headed by former National Security Council chief Gen. Brent Scowcroft—called for a new direction in arms control, and the White House has been under pressure from a group of congressmen to look at possible modifications.

Three senators and nine members of the House of Representatives wrote to Mr. Reagan 10 days ago warning they would not be able to support his plan for the MX unless changes were made in the U.S. negotiating position at the Geneva talks.

The latest American proposals call for the United States and the Soviet Union to cut their nuclear warheads to 5,000 each from the current 7,500 level and the limit the number of missiles to 850 each.

Administration sources did not specify what changes might be made but said several options would be discussed.

Reagan considers arms talks changes

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan will meet his National Security Council Tuesday to decide on possible changes in U.S. proposals at the strategic arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union, administration officials said.

Shortly after the meeting with the Security Council Tuesday, Mr. Reagan is due to meet congressional leaders to explain his approach to the arms reduction talks in Geneva, according to the officials.

The White House meetings come two days before two congressional committees take up the question of funding the MX intercontinental ballistic missile, which the president wants deployed to meet an increase in Soviet nuclear strength.

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Gemayel receives Hussein's message

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Amin Gemayel Tuesday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the latest developments in the Arab and Lebanese arena. The message was delivered to Mr. Gemayel by Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem who arrived in Beirut earlier in the day.

Following his meeting with the Lebanese president, Mr. Qasem told reporters that the message dealt with the latest developments in the Arab arena, and "Jordan's evaluation of events in the region during the last few weeks."

Mr. Qasem expressed Jordan's support for "every step that speeds up a withdrawal of Israeli and foreign troops from Lebanon," and called on Arab countries to help Lebanon in achieving that aim.

In reply to reporters' questions, Mr. Qasem said that Jordan had reached an agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) after months of talks on joint political moves on Middle East peace efforts, but the Palestinian side "could not sign the agreement at the last moment."

He ruled out any differences between Jordan and the PLO and stressed that "any future negotiations on the Palestinian problem should be preceded by a Jordanian-Palestinian understanding and an assurance of the credibility of any peace effort."

Mr. Qasem said that "such credibility can be proved by a freeze in Israel's settlements in the occupied Arab territories."

The Israeli occupation authorities are continuing to build settlements, and a fresh announcement Tuesday by Israel made it clear that Israel plans to establish nine new settlements in the Hebron area, Mr. Qasem said.

"Such plans should be taken into account by the Arabs, as they demonstrate the size of danger the Israeli settlement programme represents," Mr. Qasem concluded.

Mr. Qasem's meeting with President Gemayel was attended by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan and the Jordanian ambassador to Lebanon, Mu'tasem Al Bilbeisi. Mr. Qasem also held talks with the Lebanese ministers of foreign affairs, defence, finance and justice on topics of mutual interest. Mr. Qasem returned to Amman Tuesday evening.

(Continued on page 3)

Stockholm fears intruding subs may have escaped

SUNDSVALL, Sweden (R) — The Swedish navy has scaled down an unsuccessful 13-day hunt for at least two foreign submarines off its northern port, a defence staff spokesman said Tuesday.

The navy had had no fresh contacts with the intruders since last Saturday, when it fired two volleys of depth charges into the bay, and the possibility was now quite small that the submarines remained in the area, he said.

He added that the hunt, by ships and helicopters, had been cut back but gave no details.

"The operation was not a fiasco" but a failure, perhaps, he said, adding that the navy would continue its investigations into the intrusion for a long time.

But it seemed unlikely there would be another government inquiry of the kind which reported only two weeks ago on the Swedish navy's unsuccessful hunt for foreign submarines near its top secret Muscove base last October.

The inquiry, prompted by public anger at the navy's failure to catch the intruders, concluded that six Soviet submarines, including three mini vessels of a previously unknown type, had been in the area.

Defence and naval personnel Tuesday denied that the navy had succumbed to public hysteria in Sweden, where periscope sightings have been regularly reported over the past days.

"We are quite sure at least two submarines were in the Sundsvall Bay. Our early indications were excellent," the defence staff spokesman said.

He said the navy had been hampered by lack of resources, a problem acknowledged in the report (Continued on page 3)

Cairo warns Arabs against rejection of Shultz plan

CAIRO (R) — A leading Cairo newspaper warned Arab states Tuesday against rejecting the U.S.-sponsored agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon and said Israel would be the only beneficiary from such a decision.

FEATURES

Closure of disco bar angers Muscovites

By Brian Killen
Reuter

MOSCOW — Soviet authorities angered young Muscovites by turning one of the capital's liveliest and most fashionable disco bars into a coffee house.

The bar was closed without warning and converted in the space of three days, leaving regulars with the near-impossible task of finding similar entertainment elsewhere.

Cultural overlord in Moscow, a metropolis almost totally lacking in night life, appeared to have made the decision after reports of drunkenness and fighting at the bar, whose existence was betrayed only by a tiny copper sign on the door and a long early-evening

queue snaking along the street.

One habitue said the night spot, situated between the Soviet Internal Affairs Ministry and the Bolshoi Theatre, was closed after steps to combat rowdiness and bring it back into line with the said official entertainment scene had failed.

"Mossoviet (Moscow City Council) has taken away what most regulars thought was a unique bar, the best club between here and Copenhagen," he said.

The bar, known to most as simply the bar in Petrovka Street, was packed every night with young Muscovites who sat at tables around a cramped dance floor sipping champagne and cocktails.

Unlike most night spots in Moscow, the atmosphere was informal. There were no uniformed

doormen, staff mixed freely with customers in a dark low-ceilinged hall and regulars could bring their own music to play on the Hi-Fi system.

Earlier this year, there were signs of official concern that things were getting out of control — Ministry of Culture music restrictions were introduced, bar prices were temporarily raised and militiamen made more frequent document checks.

There were occasional fist-fights in and around the bar and regulars spoke of their friends being taken out by police to spend the night in a "sobering-up place."

But local residents and bar staff said the majority of regulars were well-behaved.

The ultimate transformation of the bar into a carpeted brightly-

painted coffee house appeared more to reflect Moscow's desire to maintain cultural controls on entertainment for young people than a resolve to crack down on hooliganism.

Western pop music and disco bars are frowned upon by the Soviet authorities, who see them as a sign of the West's moral and cultural decline.

Young Muscovites, however, regard their city's discos as a refuge from the diet of patriotic, folk and classical music served up by Soviet Television and Radio.

More typical of the city's disco entertainment than the bar on Petrovka, is the cavernous Metelitsa Cafe.

Its manager, Vyacheslav Avdonin, said in an interview before a

special May day celebration night that young people queued to sit, drink, eat ice-cream and dance to a programme of music agreed upon with the Culture Ministry.

He said that most of the discs played at medium volume were Soviet with only a limited number of Western discs.

One frequent visitor complained the music was tame, the prices so high and the service so slow it would be difficult to get drunk. "But where else do we go?" she asked.

Most young Muscovites appear happy to stand in long queues even for an evening of regimented disco entertainment.

And the closure of the bar on Petrovka is unlikely to convert its regulars to the pleasures of the coffee house.

Sinai undergoing substantial changes

By Patrick Massey
Reuter

AL-FAIRUZ, Egypt — The wreckage of what was once a Jewish settlement, razed by Israelis as part of their withdrawal, stands untouched on a desert plain one year after Egypt regained full control of the Sinai peninsula.

Ruins of villas, shopping precincts and community centres lie toppled, twisted and smashed in testimony to the frenzy with which Israeli bulldozers sought to obliterate the embryo city of Yamit. Only the synagogue remains standing.

The Egyptians have changed the name of the site to Al-Fairuz and have permitted visitors to scrawl anti-Israeli graffiti on the wreckage. Otherwise nothing has been altered at the scene of the biggest withdrawal witnessed in the annals of modern Zionism.

Elsewhere, the Sinai landscape has altered substantially since the last Israeli soldier left on April 25, 1982, in fulfilment of the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty.

Fifty kilometres east of Yamit, concrete apartment blocks and offices sprout from the sand around El-Arish, a sleepy oasis town on an ancient caravan route.

Where once there was hardly a schoolhouse, a brand new red brick university has opened for an initial intake of 157 students, learning Arabic literature and English.

The Egyptian border now lies some 10 kilometres east of Yamit and runs through the middle of Rafah, a crowded Palestinian town on the edge of the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

The barbed wire border cuts across the middle of Rafah's main street, separating families and friends who until a year ago were within strolling distance of each

other.

The electric power supply from the Israeli grid comes to a dead stop in no-man's land on a pylon from which lines stretch out to the yellow Israeli border post and the arc lights scanning the border.

Only about 50 Arabs on either side of the border are allowed across the line each day to tend fields which were separated by the peace treaty from their owners.

Other residents of Rafah are obliged to make what contact they can with friends and relatives by hailing across the 15-metre wide boundary. When a group of journalists from Cairo visited Rafah, Israeli border guards hustled away two young Palestinians who moved into no-man's land to exchange greetings with their brother on the Egyptian side.

The cluster of Israeli farm settlements that grew up around Yamit is now abandoned. Fields that used to produce tomatoes, strawberries and vegetables have largely reverted to desert scrub on which sheep and goats graze.

"We could not cultivate these settlements because the Israelis plugged up the 35 wells that used to supply the area," explained Dr. Ali Abu Zeit, head of the Sinai Development Authority. "Now we are drilling new wells to reclaim the land once more."

Dr. Abu Zeit told reporters that Egypt was spending about 110 million Egyptian pounds (about \$122 million) a year on developing Sinai. He said it was hoped to expand the peninsula's present population from its estimated 200,000 people to around a million by the end of the century.

To offset some of the lost Israeli cultivation, Egyptian authorities have initiated a model dairy farm experiment on the outskirts of El-Arish. The herd of 134 newly-imported Friesian cows, plump and

sleek and high yielders of milk, contrast strikingly with the scrawny cattle usually seen in the farmlands of the Nile Valley.

The farm director, Hassan Salam El Keshel, patterned his experiment on techniques employed by the Kibbutz settlements of Israel. "During 16 years of Israeli occupation I visited Israel frequently and studied all their most up-to-date methods," El Keshel told reporters.

Other agriculture in northern Sinai consists mainly of barley, beans, alfalfa, mangos and oranges. Estimates of potential cultivation vary widely but even the most optimistic envisage no more than about 20,000 acres (about 8,000 hectares).

Foreign experts say agriculture on this scale is hardly likely to support a greatly increased population or fill the apartments now being built hurriedly in El-Arish and three new villages under construction along the northern coast.

The deputy governor of north Sinai, Fadel Abdul Daim, said industrial projects based on salt, soda and other chemicals, will help employment.

Coalfields with reserves believed big enough to last 150 years are being developed at Maghara about 50 kilometres from the north Sinai coast.

Tourism is another hope. Only the hardest travellers ever visited the barren Sinai peninsula before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Now the Egyptians hope no idyllic palm-fringed beaches.

So far only three new hotels have been completed with little in the way of support services to attract the holiday trade.

Flights from Cairo to El-Arish's small airfield are due to be increased soon from the present two a week to one a day.

No bathtime pleasures during working hours in Moscow

By Peter Millar
Reuter

MOSCOW — When Soviet police staged daytime raids on Moscow's entertainment centres in search of absentees from work this past winter, one of the most common places to find them was in the bath.

To be more precise, they were in the Banya, a form of steam bath which is one of the oldest Russian traditions and is still enthusiastically indulged in by the modern Soviet citizen.

One of the police raids, intended to enforce party leader Yuri Andropov's message that soaking in the tub is not the way to freshen up Soviet economic performance, descended on the Tsentralniye Bani (central baths).

This is an impressive 19th-century building set back from one

of the major streets leading out from the city centre.

Before the Andropov message sank in, there were frequently long queues even on weekday-mornings to get a place in the baths.

But now it is no problem and the bath house is open from 10 in the morning to 10 at night, although last admissions are two hours earlier.

This is hardly surprising for a proper Russian bath is a lengthy business which the enthusiast can turn into almost an entire day out with friends.

In many ways the Banya fulfils much of the role of the golf club, the British pub or the French corner cafe as a place not only for relaxing but for meeting other people and perhaps discussing business.

The sexes, however, are strictly segregated to the extent that they do not even use the same entrance to the building.

The first-time visitor to the Tsentralniye is often awed by the entrance hall with its ornate staircase and painted enamel tiles on the walls and floor.

Admission is a rouble (\$1.35) and the experienced Banya-goer will also have splashed out a few kopeks to the old woman at the door for a birch-twig switch used for mild self-flagellation to open the pores in the steam room.

The Banya ritual has three parts. The naked bather takes a seat on a marble slab in a tiled room, heated to a comfortable warmth and noisy with the chatter of some 30 other bathers.

Plastic basins are filled with water from hot and cold taps around

the walls. Bathers soap themselves and occasionally will unself-consciously massage a friend stretched out on a slab.

On a visit one middle-aged man lay flat on his back on a marble slab and the disturbing impression of being in a mortuary was broken only by the black beret on his head and the soaking birch-leaves spread across his chest.

The next step is the steam room, similar to a Finnish sauna but larger and much more humid. The heating oven is huge, with a door high in the wall. Occasionally someone hurries water into it from a plastic basin, sending the temperature soaring to the cheers of the ultra keen.

The room is strangely filled with the unusual noise of birch leaves beating sweating flesh. You can beat yourself or ask a friend to

oblige. Then there is the bardy rush from this sweltering heat across the central hall to a marble-pillared room where people plunge into the cool waters of a swimming pool.

It looks like a Hollywood film-producer's conception of a Roman bath. Indeed the modern Russians, draped in toga-like towels as they stand by the side or in the 'hall next door, look more like first century patricians than Socialist workers.

But as the Roman poet Juvenal observed, it is difficult to tell a consul from a beggar in the bath.

The Russian Banya has its roots deep in the country's past.

Prints from 100 years ago show elderly peasants trudging through the snow, birch twigs in hand, on their way to the Banya.

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HOME NEWS

India cultural exchange prog. discussed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Indian Ambassador to Jordan Pyare Lal Santoshi earlier this week met with the director of the Department of Arts and the Ministry of Culture and discussed with him possibilities of exchanging cultural programmes between India and Jordan, an Indian embassy spokesman said.

India and Jordan signed a cultural agreement in 1976 and the ambassador's discussions with Mr. Mahmoud dealt with following up on the agreement, the spokesman said.

Mr. Santoshi also met with the director of the Jerash Festival Committee, Mazen Armon, and discussed the possibilities of Indian participation in the festival due to be held this summer.

Land transport chief leaves for Tunis talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary-General of the Arab Union of Land Transport (AULT) Abdullah Al Dhmour left Amman Tuesday for Tunis to take part in the meetings of the subsidiary committee for cargo and transport coordination scheduled to hold to meet at the Arab League Secretariat Thursday, Al Ra'i newspaper announced Tuesday.

The three-day meeting will discuss the selection of a base for the Arab cargo and transport sector, and will follow up the implementation of recommendations passed by the committee, in addition to formalising channels of cooperation between organisations working within the cargo sector according to the 1983 action programme.

Mr. Dhmour will also be visiting Algeria to explain the past activities and future programme of the AULT, and invite Algerian firms, institutions and corporations working in the land transport sector to join it.

Hassan meets Eximbank head

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received Mr. William H. Draper III, president and chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. The meeting was attended by the president of the National Planning Council and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Atlas team visits JNGC

AMMAN (Petra) — A team representing the administrative council of the Arab World Atlas (AWA), currently holding a meeting in Amman, Monday paid a visit to the Jordan National Geographic Centre (JNGC), where they heard a briefing on the centre's spheres of activity, its establishment and its future plans. The team were also shown round the modern equipment and apparatus at the centre and its cartographic facilities.

The visiting team emphasised the need for cooperation with the JNGC to make use of its studies for the Arab World Atlas, and expressed its appreciation of the high standards reached by the JNGC geographic research.

Hassan praises Jordan's medical service standards

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, praised the high standard of services offered by the medical profession in Jordan during his opening speech to the third medical conference of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) Tuesday.

During the first session of the conference, held at Al Hussein Sports City Palace of Culture, Crown Prince Hassan greeted Arab physicians from the occupied Arab territories and noted their sense of responsibility and solidarity under the difficult conditions created by the Israeli occupation authorities and their in-

human practices.

He pointed out that Arab doctors and specialised medical bodies in the West Bank have been able to put across to the world the injustice and sufferings under which the Arab people of Palestine are undergoing. Their sincere commitment to their profession and their strength of national feeling have greatly facilitated the dissemination of such a message, the Prince said.

Crown Prince Hassan outlined the international perspective of the medical process and pointed out that medical care is a continuous human need in the light of the accelerating progress in human civilisation. He urged that continued progress in recruiting Jordanian doctors should be accompanied by a qualitative advancement in protective medicine and public medical services.

The Crown Prince expressed his hope that the great role played by Jordanian doctors in offering aid to Arab countries struck by natural catastrophes should continue.

In conclusion, Crown Prince Hassan expressed his belief that the convening of these medical conferences helps the exchange of experience and technical knowledge between the participants.

In his address to the conference acting Minister of Health Dr. Mohammed Al Zaben praised the great care and encouragement His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan offer to all scientific meetings that are held in Jordan at both local and international levels.

JMA President Hassan Khreis during his speech pointed out that the responsibilities of the medical sector in Jordan have multiplied in order to satisfy the citizens' demand for health services. He added that the JMA has contributed greatly to the organisation of the

medical profession in Jordan, and participated through its contribution to the World Health Council (WHO) in the formulation of plans for health development and medical planning particularly in the field of health insurance.

Mr. Khreis called for the establishment of a Jordanian academy for medical research and to supply the medical profession in Jordan with most modern medical information.

The two-day conference of the JMA is playing host to seventeen physicians from various Arab and foreign countries in addition to a great number of Jordanian doctors, and will discuss several working papers focusing on local and regional diseases.

Exhibition of stone age Jordan comes to life

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An archaeological exhibition on the stone age of Jordan that opened here Monday has established a high standard of presentation and content for others to follow. The exhibition, entitled "Most Ancient Jordan: The Past Half-Million Years," continues until Monday, May 23 at the American Centre on Jabal Amman (Third Circle).

The exhibition combines displays of stone tools and other stone age artifacts with a series of maps, colour photographs and an artist's recreation of scenes of life in Jordan during the past 500,000 years. The effect of the four elements together is dramatically bringing to life a topic that would otherwise remain slightly vague if it were seen only through the neat collections of stone tools that make up the heart of the display.

The exhibition largely reflects the work of Dr. Gary Rollefson, an American specialist in the stone age who is a professor of archaeology at Yarmouk University. Dr. Rollefson is also giving three slide lectures (at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre on

May 11, 16 and 18) on various aspects of life, hunting and society during the stone age in Jordan.

The exhibition is arranged according to the various sites that Dr. Rollefson and his colleagues have studied throughout Jordan. The oldest is Jebel Uweinat, near Azraq, which was almost certainly an ambush site where our ancestors hunted large animals about 500,000 years ago, cutting and chopping their kills with large, crude stone tools that are on display at the exhibition.

By about 150,000-125,000 years ago, early Jordanian man and woman had developed more sophisticated stone tools, some of which were made by using bone or horn hammers. Handaxes found at Ain el Assad, near Azraq, and hunting and butchering tools from Fijaje, near Shobak, help shed light on the hunting practices of the Neanderthal people who inhabited Jordan at this time.

By 90,000-35,000 years ago, these early Jordanians became yet more sophisticated in making their stone tools, as the exhibition shows with the example of the Difa rockshelter in the cliffs of the Wadi el Ali, a tributary of the Wadi Hasa in south Jordan. Numerous spear points and knives indicate that this was a site used by a band of hunters who sought refuge from the elements, as well as a sheltered spot to cook their animal meat.

By about 35,000 BC, the inhabitants of this area would have been true modern man, *homo sapiens sapiens*, whose "tool kit" included many different kinds of stone blades, spear points, knives and scraping tools. A harsh climate between 35,000-17,000 BC means we have few remains of the little human activity of this period.

By about 20,000 years ago, however, Jordan's climate became similar to today's, and in the period from around 17,000 - 8,500 BC the inhabitants of Jordan appear to have largely edged away from the now dry eastern desert regions into the hillier, wetter areas to the west of the country. The site of Tabaga, on the Wadi Hasa, illustrates the development of Jordan's earliest settled communities, where previously constantly mobile hunter-gatherers settled in one place for months at a time.

By the early Neolithic period (8,500-6,000 BC), permanent villages have become an established way of life in this area. People started to control nature, instead of always being at its mercy. Plants were cultivated, and animals were domesticated. The village of Ain Ghazal, on the northern edge of Amman, is used to show this stage of development in early civilisation in Jordan. The houses of Ain Ghazal had stone walls, plastered and painted floors, burials beneath the house floors, and sunken cooking hearths. Some of the most important finds at Ain Ghazal, including clay animal figurines and jewellery, form the centrepiece of the exhibition.

The exhibition's fine drawings were done by Mr. Stephen Hayes, also of Yarmouk University. The exhibition has been prepared in cooperation with Yarmouk University, the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, and the American Centre of Oriental Research, and is being held under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.



One of the sketches on show at the American Centre which helps bring to life the last 500,000 years in Jordan.

Syria warns of 'unlimited war'

(Continued from page 1)

he was accompanying President Hafez Al Assad for talks with King Fahd on an accord agreed in principle last week for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Syria has effectively blocked the agreement's implementation by objecting to it, as Israel has said it will not recall its troops unless Syria does likewise.

A report on the Jeddah talks by the official Syrian news agency SANA said Syria and Saudi Arabia agreed that the accord "in its present form" could endanger Lebanon, but it stopped short of an outright rejection.

Some foreign observers interpreted the statement as reflecting what they saw as Saudi efforts

to soften Syria's uncompromising stand on the draft accord.

But Mr. Khaddam told reporters in Jeddah that Syria rejected the agreement.

And asked about the possibility of an Israeli attack on Syria, he said: "All possibilities are there. Massing of troops, threats and Israeli practices in Lebanon make the aggression very likely and naturally we will face any aggression."

Asked what support Syria could expect in such circumstances from the Soviet Union, Mr. Khaddam referred to a 1980 friendship treaty between the two countries under which they pledged to consult each other in case of a security threat against either party.

"The Soviet Union has commitments under the friendship treaty and we believe it will meet these commitments," Mr. Khaddam said.

Diplomats in Damascus say Moscow has replenished Syrian military stocks destroyed or damaged during Israel's invasion last year and has installed at least two batteries of long-range SAM-5 anti-aircraft missiles in Syria manned by Soviet personnel.

Damascus Radio said in its commentary that Syria was committed to the freedom and independence of Lebanon.

Falangists fortify Lebanese village

(Continued from page 1)

forces and leftist Druze in the Israeli-held Shouf mountains.

The local rightist militia chief, Mr. Edde, told reporters in a nearby monastery converted into a prison that the latest Israeli-imposed ceasefire appeared to be holding Tuesday. But neither he nor his men showed any sign of relief that the conflict would not flare up again.

Beirut newspapers say some 45 people were killed in six days of the clashes and artillery duels which spilled over into shelling of nearby rightist areas of the capital.

Under the eyes of Israeli forces, rightist militiamen were throwing p earth barricades round the dges of the village against sniper re from leftist positions in villages across the pine tree-clad valleys.

Both rightists and leftists agreed that the attacking force penetrated inside the village, but they differed on the role of the Israelis and the death toll.

Mr. Edde said the bodies of 12 attackers were found inside the village and banded over to the Israelis to be returned to the Druze. Three rightist militiamen were killed in the fighting and three more in the preceding artillery barrages.

He said the Israelis came with tanks to separate the two sides after three hours of fighting.

"It took some time to end the fighting as the Socialists had encircled the village," he said.

Sources close to the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) in Beirut said the Israelis joined in the battle on the rightists' side, killing three Druze and preventing the attackers from capturing the strategic village.

An Israeli spokesman outside Beirut confirmed that Israeli troops had intervened in the clash, but said he had no details.

A party of journalists was taken to Mtoule by the Falange-dominated "Lebanese Forces" militia, the biggest rightist private army in Lebanon.

It was not possible to check the militiamen's account with Druze forces in nearby villages, though sources close to the PSP in the capital gave some details of their version.

Reporters found dozens of heavily-armed "Lebanese Forces" militiamen in the village, though it was exposed to sniper fire from at least two directions.

Local people said most of the population had left following artillery bombardments. Several houses were badly damaged by shellfire, while the local school and the cream-coloured stone church took direct hits.

Rightist and leftist fighters have battled sporadically since last June's Israeli invasion upset the local power balance, ending Druze domination of the region and allowing the rightists back in.

Mtoule, however, lies on the edge of a rightist area and had until now been spared the worst of the fighting, which has been concentrated further north.

TASS says Lebanon situation tense

(Continued from page 1)

on a position of military strength.

It called for the immediate and conditional withdrawal of Israeli and U.S. troops from Lebanon. "The problems of Lebanon cannot be solved by armistice," TASS said.

The agency roundly condemned the mission of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the Middle East as an attempt to bring "mas-

sive pressure" on Lebanon to agree to Israeli and American plans.

Meanwhile, a senior Israeli official said the evacuation of relatives of Soviet embassy personnel from Beirut was intended to put psychological pressure on Lebanon not to sign an agreement with Israel.

The senior official, briefing reporters on condition that he remain anonymous, said: "The

Soviets are trying to create a war scare and frighten the Lebanese into not signing. We hope there is nothing more behind this move."

U.S. negotiator Philip Habib is due to return to Israel from Beirut to try to clarify unresolved details in the agreement.

The official said the major issue was the role to be played and the duties, powers and precise status of Israel's ally, militia leader Saad Haddad.

Weinberger to hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

over the past two weeks, has been held up by Syrian objections.

The Western and Arab diplomats suggested that the U.S. could be seeking help from Saudi Arabia, which financially backs Syria, in winning Syrian approval for the plan.

Answering reporters' questions, State Department spokesman John Hughes Tuesday confirmed the existence of a letter in which the Americans acknowledge Israel's position that it plans to keep its troops in Lebanon as long as Syrian forces remain there.

The letter accompanied the draft accord, agreed by Israel and Lebanon, on the withdrawal of Israeli troops, he said.

Mr. Shultz was believed to have briefed President Francois Mitterrand on his Middle East shuttle in a meeting at the Elysee Palace Tuesday, but officials declined to

comment on the talks.

Mr. Mitterrand is due Wednesday to meet Iraq's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, in Paris to negotiate new French credits and arms supplies for his country.

France has thrown its weight behind Baghdad, its biggest arms customer, in its efforts to build up its armed forces.

Diplomats said Mr. Aziz was still pressing France to sell Super Etendard jets equipped with Exocet air-to-sea missiles, the combination which proved highly effective for Argentina in its war with Britain over the Falklands a year ago.

French officials declined comment, but according to press reports the Mitterrand administration is reluctant to let Baghdad have the weapons, although France sold helicopter-launched Exocets to Iraq four years ago.

Mr. Weinberger is due to see Prince Sultan and Heru on Wednesday.

Stockholm fears subs escaped

(Continued from page 1)

on the October incident. He added that it was also very tricky to force a submarine to the surface without sinking it, as the navy had been trying to do.

"I think we would do better in a war," he said.

Exactly how the submarines escaped from the closely guarded bay remains a mystery. Twenty eyewitnesses said on Saturday that

they saw a periscope in the wake of a ferry bound for Finland and experts speculated that one of the intruders might have camouflaged its movements behind the boat.

But photographs of the ferry showed no periscope.

Who the intruders were is also unproved. Swedes appear convinced they were Soviet submarines, probing the coast and testing the effectiveness of their navy.

'Lebanon reconstruction blocked'

(Continued from page 1)

financial institutions to start the ball rolling, the Arabs want to first see an Israeli troop withdrawal and the Israelis want a Syrian pullout, he said.

The government's council for development and reconstruction last year drew up a \$15-billion programme for rebuilding the Lebanese economy over an eight-year period up to 1991.

Housing accounts for over \$5 billion of the total, transport for \$2.5 billion and water, irrigation and communications for over \$1 billion each.

Mr. Bouloukian said the Lebanese authorities will be looking to external sources for at least two-thirds of the cost of the programme, viewing the problem as not of Lebanon's own making.

Its priority source of funds will be aid and grants from governments and financial institutions, then low-interest loans and finally private banking credits, he said.

An Arab League summit in 1979 pledged \$2 billion in aid to Lebanon over five years, but because of continuing instability less than \$400 million had been paid by the end of 1982, he said.

But the Lebanese government was confident the balance would be paid when the political situation was resolved, he added.

Mr. Bouloukian also said he was confident Beirut could regain its pre-war position as a major regional financial centre.

The banking sector had largely continued to thrive despite eight years of war and disruption of the economy, he said.

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Which way to the sand?

IT WILL be the preferred tendency of many people to dismiss the two small explosions that occurred in Amman on Monday evening as isolated, unimportant incidents. We do not share this view, and we suggest that when bombs start exploding in the offices of American institutions in Jordan, the time is ripe for some honest soul-searching. It was fortunate that nobody was hurt in the explosions on Monday. These were small explosive devices, which detonated in the early evening when the chance of people being hurt was small. This is a fortunate fact, perhaps even a lucky one. But one wonders: What if the explosions were bigger, and took place during the day, when both sites would have been crowded with people? The thought is unpleasant, to be sure. But we feel strongly that the way to deal with unpleasant thoughts is to tackle them head-on, and get to the root of their being. There are some — perhaps there are many — who would prefer to forget the whole affair and make believe that all is well in the Holy Land. There are some who would prefer that such awkward topics as bombings of American facilities in the Arab World not be mentioned in the press, and that we all stick our heads in the sand and collectively turn away from a reality that keeps reminding us — with bombs, with words, with massacres, with slaughters — that it will not go away by itself, no matter how far down into the sand we push. To watch American facilities in the Arab World slowly transformed into armed defensive fortresses is a sad thing. One continues to ask: Why does it happen? Why is it that some people in the Arab World deem it appropriate to bomb American targets, in Beirut, Amman or wherever else? How many people do the mysterious bombers represent? What is it that has turned the Arab people into passive spectators in a vicious game of violence? How many Arabs are revolted by these bombings? How many are just passive? Is this an ugly, ungracious thought? From where does it stem? Where does the ugliness start? When will it end? Is anybody willing to study the real meaning of these recent bombings? Or do we all make a dash for the sandbox?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Holy day is an inspiration

AL ISM' Wal Mi'raj feast serves as a reminder to all Muslims of their responsibilities to liberate Jerusalem and the Holy Shrine of Al Aqsa Mosque. Muslims everywhere should draw from this feast the inspiration for action to alter the gloomy situation that prevails throughout the holy places under Israeli occupation. This feast is a call to the conscience of Arabs and Muslims to act now to rebuild a stronger force that can remove the darkness shrouding their holy places.

The act of rebuilding and unity goes beyond wishful thinking, and hopes for a miracle. It is a responsibility that Arabs and Muslims everywhere should shoulder and should act collectively towards meeting the challenges and building a better future, free of threats and aggression.

Arabs and Muslims should remember that faith, knowledge and serious and meaningful work constitute the bases of a new future, and they must act now and not just let the time pass while the enemy continues to exploit everything to their advantage. The present dispiriting atmosphere should by no means discourage our efforts. This gloomy situation could be the last phase of darkness that precedes the breaking of the new dawn.

Al Dustour: Feast focuses on holy city

THE feast of Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj stands as a reminder of the unity in God of the religions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. It is a reminder to all the faithful of the holiness of Jerusalem—a spiritual centre for all religions. Indeed this feast is a test to distinguish the faithful from all impostors, while at the same time acting as a reminder of the day of Jerusalem. The feast underlines the status of Jerusalem as an eternal holy city. This city is now living through the darkest phase of its life. It is subjected to criminal acts by the Zionist invaders who have desecrated its holy shrines, terrorised its inhabitants, changed its character and transformed it into a hotbed of evil and darkness.

We have faith in God and we believe that His Majesty will not allow this holy city to remain in such a miserable state—under the mercy of profanes and criminals.

Sawt Al Shaab: Shrines under greater threat

THE feast of Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj comes around once again while Al Aqsa Mosque and other holy shrines, still under the yoke of Zionist occupation, are living through the darkest days. The Israelis are now planning to demolish the mosque to build in its place their temple of Zion at a time when Arab and Muslim nations seem to be totally paralysed and unable to take any step towards liberating their land and holy places. The Zionists who are also threatening other mosques in Palestine like Al Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron and the Hassan Beik Mosque of Jaffa, are proving to the world that they are waging a racist and sectarian war against the Arab Nation regardless of religious principles or ethics.

The attempts to demolish Al Aqsa Mosque, the planting of bombs in places of worship, excavation work under the foundations of holy shrines and the repressive actions against the Arab population make it imperative that Muslims everywhere join ranks and declare a holy war to rescue their holy land and liberate their kinsmen.

Unless the Arabs and Muslims act now to mobilise their forces for the liberation of their territory the next anniversary of Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj could come to witness the non-existence of these holy places and the total oppression of the land.

DE FACTONOMICS

Jordan Valley development and challenges

By T.A. Jaber

In 1973, I was accompanying a visiting finance minister from the Far East in a tour of the Jordan Valley. By that time, Jordan had formulated a ten-year programme for the development of the valley. I took the opportunity to brief him on the kind of projects envisaged and their far-reaching impact on our food requirements, exports, water management, and social life. The programme was the most comprehensive approach to economic and social development in a given region of Jordan.

The visiting minister, who was also a key figure behind his country's success in development, could not hide his feelings of the great task ahead. The gap between the prevailing situation and the desired one was indeed wide. Mud houses

lying here and there in small villages of which some were demolished by Israeli air attacks. Roads were narrow and services of drinking water and electricity were not extended. There was partially irrigated farming in the northern part of the valley, using traditional methods of irrigation and cropping.

The potential of this area was also clear even for a visitor. Water, land and proper winter climate can, if fully made use of, can transform the Jordan Valley to become the source of our vegetables and fruits. The requirements of needed transformation were immense, particularly, financing of costly irrigation facilities, project design and execution, land distribution, water management and the adequate formula for

social development.

Now, most of us tend to take the progress made in the Jordan Valley as a given fact. We enjoy seeing modern roads there, electricity lines, new schools and towns, modern techniques of agricultural production and irrigation, more than one hundred thousand dunums were added to the irrigated land, drinking water projects linked to the highly populated areas of Amman and Irbid governorates, and apart from these there are many other gratifying signs of modernisation and development.

The government will continue to pump in funds for development projects in the valley which will amount to JD 460 million in the five-year (from 1981 to 1985). Private sector

investments could add up to fifty per cent of this amount. According to rough calculations, about 25 per cent of total development expenditures in Jordan were allocated in the last decade to the Jordan Valley projects (including Potash).

Jordan's experience in regional development planning and implementation lies in the Jordan Valley and the Aqaba region. Both regions stand as remarkable case studies to evaluate their economic and social achievements and limitations.

The commendable task of managing the development of the Jordan Valley induces me to ponder about its implications.

First, having all these development projects at the fro-

ntier involves some risks as well as opportunities. This fact reflects Jordan's determination to utilise its resources and potential in spite of all difficulties. It is a striking contrast to see that such determination was supported positively by Arab and international lending agencies and bilateral co-operation.

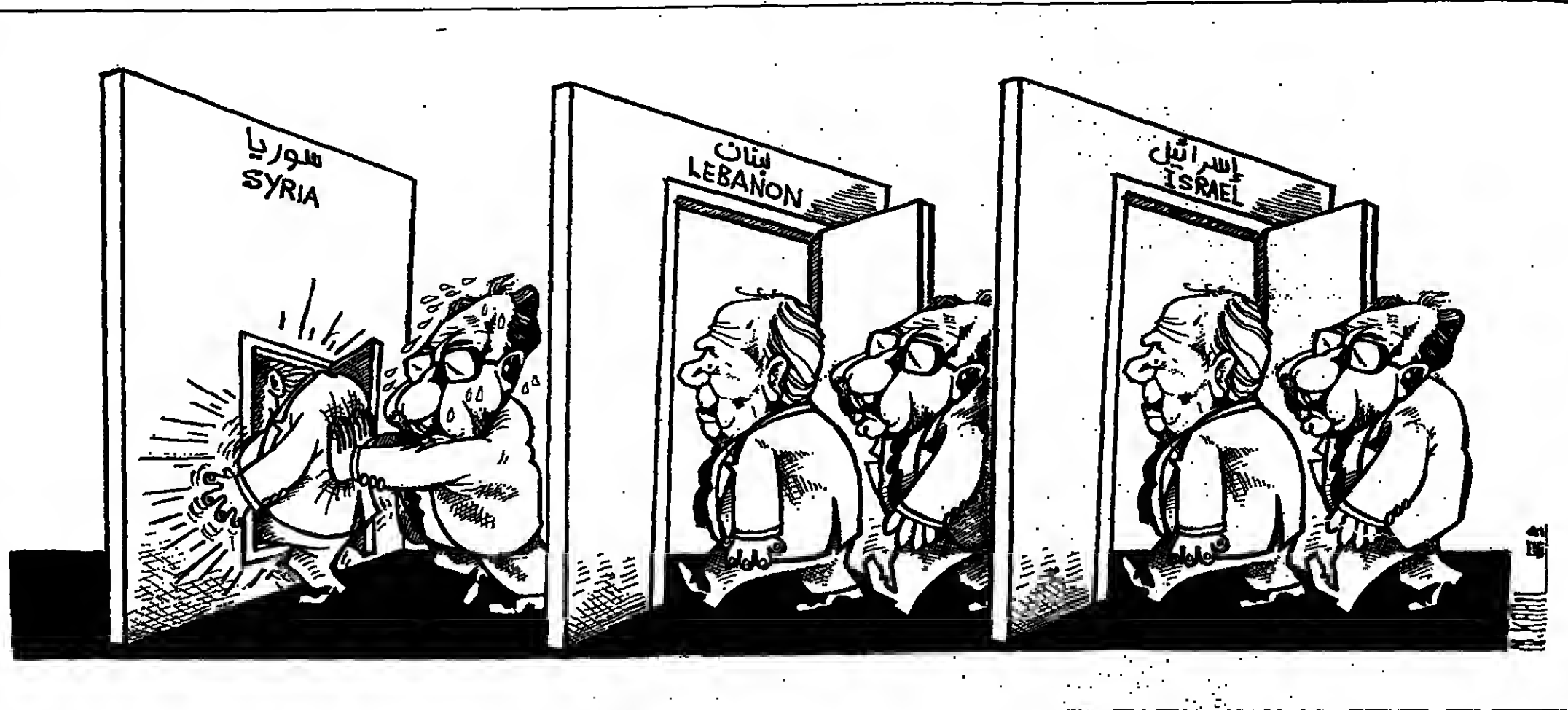
Second, the development of the Jordan Valley has enhanced the regional linkages and interdependence in Jordan not only in food production, but also in water. It has also increased population mobility and helped in diversifying the economy.

Third, the execution of development projects in the valley depended considerably on imported labour. Even now,

farm production uses thousands of non-Jordanians. Some of these workers have rented pieces of land and become employers. It is hoped that the ownership pattern in the valley will induce more of the stable farm labour from Jordan.

Finally, it was easier to construct the infrastructural facilities in the valley than to assess its social impact and to bring about desired social changes. Our universities and researchers should study social attitudes in the valley as a case and draw whatever conclusions may be found.

All those who worked for the development of the Jordan Valley deserve praise and congratulations. Further work still lies ahead.



Shultz' mission faces tough Syrian stand

By Hugh Carnegie
 Reuters

DAMASCUS — Syria's opposition to a deal for the pull-out of Israeli troops from Lebanon appears to condemn the country to a foreign troop presence for some time to come.

The tough Syrian stand spelled out to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz here was a weighty blow to his mediation attempts and wider U.S. efforts towards Middle East peace.

By insisting that a U.S.-drafted accord, approved in principle by Israel and Lebanon, does not meet its conditions for pulling out its own forces, Damascus appears to have ensured a lengthy delay in the troop withdrawal process.

Israel has made it clear it will not bring home its 25,000 soldiers, even if the accord is signed, unless the 40,000 or more Syrian troops and more than 6,000 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

fighters leave too.

According to Shultz, however, the Syrians did not totally slam the door on an eventual all-round withdrawal and it was now up to Lebanon to try to swing some kind of deal with its fellow-Arab neighbour.

The Syrians, however, appeared to deflate even Shultz's previously unflagging optimism with the official media blasting the proposed Lebanese-Israeli accord in various commentaries.

A Syrian government official appeared to go even further when he told reporters Syria was not content merely to reject the draft accord, but would "resist it fiercely and work to torpedo it because it infringes Lebanon's sovereignty and unity as well as the security of Syria and all the Arabs."

The official declined to be named.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad flew to Saudi Arabia only hours after Shultz left there, emphasising the importance of the wealthy Gulf kingdom in the overall Middle East picture.

Assad was assumed to be asking for King Fahd's support for his stance on Lebanon and diplomats here said the Saudi attitude could be crucial.

The official Saudi Press Agency's coverage of the Assad and Shultz visits gave few details. Saudi Arabia, wooed by the U.S. as a possible moderating influence with hardline states such as Syria, still pours vital aid into Syria and Assad and King Fahd maintain good relations.

Some diplomats in Damascus said Assad's apparent tough-talking to Shultz could be the opening round in a lengthy bargaining process.

Syria might accept negotiations with Lebanon on the withdrawal of its troops if Beirut used the right approach, the diplomats said. One such approach could be to propose that the terms under which Syrian troops were asked to enter Lebanon in 1976 to help end the civil war no longer applied, they added.

The Syrians were asked to enter Lebanon by the Arab League, with the blessing of the Lebanese president, but that mandate expired last year.

It is a key component of Syria's position that because its troops were asked into Lebanon, in contrast with the Israelis who invaded, there cannot be a direct comparison between the continuing presence of the two.

Shultz acknowledged this Syrian stand to reporters travelling with him on his shuttle, saying a parallel Syrian withdrawal had to be negotiated somehow without direct bargaining between Israel and Syria.

Syria has made it plain it will not pull out unless its conditions for an Israeli withdrawal are met.

Syria's basic condition, repeatedly stated in the official media, is that Israel should make no gains, particularly in the military field, from its invasion of

Lebanon.

It objects to reported provisions in the Lebanese-Israeli deal for Israeli security guarantees in southern Lebanon, such as joint Israeli-Lebanese patrols and a key role for Israeli-backed militia leader Maj. Saad Haddad.

A breakthrough in troop withdrawal efforts, therefore, would appear to require new Israeli concessions or a modification of Syria's present position.

In the meantime, Syria appears content that its position in the region is strong and getting stronger, increasing its determination not to settle for a withdrawal deal that would damage its role as the toughest Arab opposition to Israel.

Since Israeli troops thrust into Lebanon nearly a year ago to oust Palestinian commandos, sending Syrian forces reeling at the same time, Syria has regained much of its damaged prestige.

The Soviet Union has replenished Syria's battered military

in both quantity and quality, including installing at least two batteries of SAM-5 anti-aircraft missiles, according to diplomats here.

Damascus has also patched up relations with the PLO which slipped after the Israeli invasion. Last week, Assad met PLO chief Yasser Arafat for the first time in seven months in what both sides hailed as a turning point in Middle East affairs.

A shadow hanging over Syria, however, is the memory of last June's Israeli push into Lebanon when its air force destroyed Syrian anti-aircraft positions in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and shot down 85 Syrian fighter planes for virtually no Israeli losses.

With Israel's awesome U.S.-supplied firepower at present centred in the Bekaa within 40 kilometres of Damascus, Syria cannot relish the prospect of another bout of fighting.

An Israeli withdrawal would at least reduce that threat.

Can Mitterrand survive domestic unrest?

By Charles Bremner
 Reuters

PARIS — Francois Mitterrand marks the second anniversary of his election to the French presidency amid public gloom and street protests and with many one-time supporters wondering what went wrong.

Two years after Mitterrand swept to office with his vision of a Socialist France, an avalanche of opinion polls show his popularity plunging and a tide of pessimism sweeping the nation.

Political commentators are contrasting the wave of optimism that accompanied Mitterrand and the Socialist Party to power in 1981 with the economic crisis and austerity of 1983.

The mood of discontent has boiled over in recent weeks as doctors, farmers and students have demonstrated or gone on strike, prompting right-wing predictions of civil strife and the downfall of the government or the president.

Violent clashes between demonstrators and police in Paris in which at least 80 people were injured and 60 arrested will do little to encourage Mitterrand.

Aides say he is taking a long-term view of the discontent, convinced he can carry through what he sees as a seven-year mission to transform French society.

In a rare public comment last

week, the 66-year-old president denied he was a disappointed man and said he was proud of his "historic responsibility."

Decline of support

According to several opinion polls over the past month Mitterrand's personal standing is lower than that of his modern predecessors Charles De Gaulle, Georges Pompidou and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing after two years in office.

In one survey this week, conducted for a state television station, only 33 per cent had a favourable opinion of the president's performance.

The polls show support falling most dramatically among middle-class electors who swung left and opted for Mitterrand and his promise to change society in 1981.

But analysts say few Frenchmen would contest his right to stay until the next election due in 1988.

Commentators agree that Mitterrand, a reflective, private man, has grown comfortably into the role of Fifth Republic president, an institution he had denounced as a "permanent coup d'etat" after it was created for Gen. De Gaulle in 1958.

He is widely regarded as highly

successful in his handling of foreign affairs and has travelled far and wide, seeking to project a new French voice in the Third World while aligning himself with Washington on East-West issues.

But at home he is still widely seen as the leader of a left-wing party committed to a "class war" with half of French society, commentators say.

For the past year, he has dropped references to Socialism or his political background, striving to present himself as the leader of all Frenchmen.

The state of the economy is the main cause of disillusion with Mitterrand, the Socialists and their Communist allies and was behind the defection of many left-wing voters in nationwide municipal elections last March, surveys show.

After implementing a high-spending expansionary programme to generate growth in its first year, the government reversed its strategy in June 1982, imposing restrictive measures to accompany a devaluation of the franc.

In March it decreed a second, more severe austerity programme, including heavy taxes and limits on foreign travel, while devaluing the franc for the third time.

Over the past month heavy losses by nationalised companies and a falling franc have further eroded

public confidence.

Commentators believe Mitterrand damaged himself in March when he hesitated for nine days over whether to opt for classical austerity or radical strategy involving protectionist measures.

The Socialist Party reluctantly went along with the austerity plan, officially called "intensified rigour," but the party's deputy leader Jean Poperen sounded the alarm.

He said the Socialists could start preparing to spend the rest of the century in opposition if the government failed to show greater interest in social justice.

Right-wing threat

Poperen also raised a spectre which is widely reported to haunt Mitterrand — the possibility of a right-wing takeover in France of the kind that ended the rule of Marxist President Salvador Allende in Chile in 1973.

The idea that the government could be brought down by non-constitutional means, recurrent in French history, has been revived over the past two weeks with the strikes and protests.

The right-wing daily Le Figaro predicted an imminent collapse of the government and other newspapers drew parallels with the

social explosion of May 1968 that presaged the departure a year later of President De Gaulle.

The president, many of whose ministers demonstrated on the student barricades in 1968, stepped in and warned protesters against rebellion while ordering concessions that ended the doctors' strike.

One man who dismissed comparisons with the events of 15 years ago was Daniel Cohn-Bendit, a leader of the 1968 protest movement.

In a newspaper interview, he said the 1968 protesters were questioning traditional political and social values both right and left-wing but the movement today was sparked by the consequences of recession and inspired by the right-wing.

"I do not see how this social offensive could correspond to a questioning of society as a whole," he said.

The government could face more serious trouble in the Autumn when the austerity programme begins to bite, especially if there is unrest among the big left-wing unions.

However, the opposition party appears reluctant to fan unrest. In a restrained reaction to the recent events, Jacques Chirac leader of the Neo-Gaullist Party, said France had lost its way and was in the grip of discontent and division.

created by the Socialists.

But he added: "The opposition is not behind the present movements... we want the conflicts to be calmed, not aggravated."

Chirac's deputy Bernard Pons said Mitterrand was "an incompetent surrounded by incompetents", but added that the party had no wish to see the Socialists hounded from office.

Le Figaro this week described the two years since May 10, 1981 as a fiasco, listing the reasons.

"An economy in collapse... crushing taxes, falling purchasing power, partial closure of the frontiers for travellers and goods, penal reforms which have succeeded in guaranteeing security, radio and television new at the orders of the government..."

However, Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy and party officials say the government is only going through a rough patch caused mainly by the legacy of its predecessor and the recession aggravated by U.S., British and West German conservative policies.

Some Socialist officials argue that given the far-reaching social and economic reforms of Mitterrand's first year, some difficult and public unrest was inevitable. "Look, we have already been in power longer than any French left-wing government in history, one party official noted.

New Queen Alia Airport will be one of best in Middle East

First of two articles on new developments in aviation in Jordan, reprinted from *Airports International* magazine.

By David Woolley

AMMAN — Jordan's new airport, Queen Alia International, is about to open for operations. This much-needed facility will bring relief to the hard-pressed existing Amman Airport, now handling around 2.5 million air transport passengers, more than 60,000 tonnes of cargo and 30,000 movements a year.

The new airport promises to be one of the more efficient in the Middle East. The need for it arises to a large extent from the success of the national carrier, Alia (the Royal Jordanian Airline), which in these times of depression is increasing its traffic and maintaining profitability.

Last year Alia carried 1.7 million passengers, an increase of 19 per cent on 1981, and 38,600 tonnes of cargo, a 17 per cent increase. In 1981 the airline's net profit was \$5.4 million.

Passenger traffic at the existing airport has more than doubled in five years, putting a severe strain on the facilities and on staff and passengers alike. The terminal has only five gates, not all of them in use, and most flights are parked remotely, requiring bussing of passengers.

Factors influencing the flow of traffic through Amman Airport of late have included the Iraq-Iran war, which led for a time to the closure of Baghdad Airport and diversion of its traffic to Amman, and the substantial flow of migrant workers from Egypt through Amman to parts of the Arab world.

At present Alia and Egyptair are each operating six to ten flights a day between their two capitals, carrying about 250,000 passengers a year each; both airlines have unrestricted rights for the purpose.

Reasonably expeditious flow of passengers through the terminal is maintained by restricting entry to the building to passengers, and there is a security check carried out prior to check-in.

It is against this background that the new airport is being readied for operations. Queen Alia International has been built on a desert site some 35 km south of the capital. It has two parallel

runways of 3,660 m, and between them a pair of passenger terminals which will provide initially a total capacity of three million passengers a year. Provision has been made for a further two terminals which could eventually double the capacity.

As we closed for press there was still some doubt about the opening date, although the Minister of Transport was reported to have stated that operations would begin in April.

At the time of our visit in late February the South Terminal had been handed over by the contractors to Arabair Services, the consultancy arm of Alia, which was supervising final preparations on behalf of the Ministry of Transport. It is this terminal which will be occupied by Alia.

Across the spine road, the North Terminal, to be occupied by the foreign carriers, was still in the hands of the contractors.

The Ministry's intention is that there should be a "soft" opening of the new airport, with a gradual transfer of services from the old airport. Observers on site commented to Airports International that this procedure would be advisable, and would give the airlines the chance to integrate the new operation gradually, ironing out inevitable teething troubles before they led to any disruption of services.

The airline's view, however, is that the cut-over must be "hard" with a complete close-down at the old location and a reopening within hours at the new. Its fear is that it will not have the resources to sustain a split operation, while it is confident of its ability to cope with a single move.

The site for the new airport was chosen as long as 20 years ago. Initial studies were made by France Technique in 1963, and it was as a result of these that the location was selected. In 1970 a complete outline design was prepared by Union Engineering of Yugoslavia.

In 1973 a design review was undertaken with the objective of reducing the overall cost and facilitating a loan from West Germany which at that time appeared to be on the cards. One of the participants in this review was the West German affiliate of U.S. engineering firm Bechtel; another was Dar Al-Handasah (Shair & Partners), a Jordanian consultancy which is the only one of

Introduction by His Majesty King Hussein

It is a great pleasure to share Jordan's pride and its objectives with readers on the occasion of the opening of our new Queen Alia International Airport. This advanced facility is both a symbol of our cumulative achievements and our present faith in the future, as well as a practical vehicle for the realization of our goals.

Just 19 years ago when we first established Alia, The Royal Jordanian Airline, few observers believed in the future of aviation for a small, non-oil producing Arab state, existing under the constant threat of the Middle East's most volatile political issue. However, the people of Jordan confounded the cynics by creating in our country modern business centres for enterprises, new industries, and the infrastructure necessary to support international tourism and trade.

We made a decision long ago that Jordan's future well-being is dependent upon open lines of communication and exchange with other countries, both regionally and abroad. Alia's mission was to act as our bridge, our lifeline to the rest of the world, by which Jordan could not only obtain the means for its own development, but also contribute to the world community. For the same reason, we have always welcomed other international carriers to Amman.

I am pleased to say that today Amman has become a multi-purpose regional centre. By geography alone, Jordan can claim its place as the "gateway" to the Middle East. We have also worked hard to provide the facilities and atmosphere necessary to successfully attract many international firms to establish their offices in Amman. Additionally, the airlines, our ministries, and private entrepreneurs have done much to broaden Jordan's reputation as a fascinating and comfortable tourist destination.

More specifically, Jordan has become a major aviation centre for the Arab Air Academy; Arab Wings, the region's first ex-

clusive jet charter and maintenance service; The Royal Falcons, its only aerobatic flying team; and Arab Air Cargo, a joint Arab cargo line; as well as Alia, with its dynamically growing fleet and route network. Even prior to the airport's opening, Amman served some twenty other international carriers. These aviation activities have helped to put Jordan on the map in areas of the world where our country was previously unknown. Thus, it is most appropriate that we can now offer the international civil aviation community a more spacious and efficient new entryway to Jordan and a transit or intermediate point for travel beyond the Middle East.

The construction of our new airport was undertaken not only out of necessity in response to our expanding aviation, economic and tourism activities, but out of a strong belief that all sectors of our society and economy will continue to flourish and grow. We are heavily committed in present efforts to creating a truly just and lasting peace in our region, which is the most crucial foundation for prosperity and human development. With the help of our citizens, our international friends, and this wonderful new gateway to our country, we look forward to a vastly expanded volume of trade, visitors, cultural exchanges and interaction with our fellow men.

As an aviator myself, I have always been deeply moved by the miracle of air transport — the power to close distances and bring people face to face. A primary goal of civil aviation must be to bring about a greater understanding and cooperation in our world. Personally, and on behalf of the Jordanian people, I would like to extend a warm invitation to all to make use of this new facility and to experience Jordan, our history, culture and contemporary vitality. We will be proud to receive you at Queen Alia International Airport and to make you feel at home in our country.

the early consultancies still engaged on the project.

Before the completion of the 1973 studies, however, the Ministry of Transport engaged an architect to design the terminal, and this action caused some dissension within the ranks of those working on the design review.

In 1975, after completion of the review, the first major contract was awarded. It was for the access road and the south airfield — effectively the southern runway and its associated taxiways and aprons — and it went to the Jordanian contractor General Enterprises Co Ltd (GENECO).

The planning team, according to the Jordan government, "performed below expectations", and their agreement was terminated; the job was, however, given to Bechtel in San Francisco, but that was a short-lived arrangement which the government terminated in 1976.

Officials are understandably reticent on the reasons for this rift. One source in Jordan indicated to Airports International that the American firm, though respected, and successful in the Middle East, especially in Saudi Arabia, tended

towards grandiose design, was more suited to gigantic projects such as petrochemicals, and had come to Jordan with the belief that it was in a seller's market.

The Ministry of Transport then gave the responsibility for conceptual design and master planning to its contractor GENECO, who engaged U.S. consultant Tippetts Abbott McCarthy Stratton (TAMS). TAMS drew up a master plan, and when that was accepted, was commissioned for the full design.

Later, the Ministry engaged U.K. civil engineering firm Sir Frederick Snow International Ltd to supervise the construction; and in mid-1977 Dar Al-Handasah was reengaged in a joint venture with Snow.

One other change occurred: In 1981, when it had become apparent that the resources of GENECO might be inadequate, U.K. contractor John Laing was also engaged, and is now putting the finishing touches to the project which is officially described as a joint venture with GENECO.

A decision made early on to build both runways in the first development stage means that the

airport will have ample runways capacity.

The first runway, the southern one, was completed as long ago as 1978. It was built as a rigid pavement comprising 200 mm (8 in) of cement-treated base and 300 mm (12 in) of pavement-quality concrete.

The northern runway was by contrast a flexible pavement with concrete ends. Like other technical equipment on the airport, the runways have been built to the standards of the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, and are designed for use by heavy jets with equivalent departures in excess of 6,000 a year.

Bad weather is fairly uncommon in Jordan (although at the time of our visit in February there were snow storms). Dust clouds can, however, restrict visibility.

Runway 26L is equipped to Cat 2 standards, with provision for upgrading to Cat 3 at a later date if needed. In the US direction the runways are designed for visual approaches, on the grounds that with easterly winds weather is not often a problem. Easterly landings will normally be made on 08L, which has fast turnoffs; the UNR approach lighting system consists only of REILS (runway-end light-reflector lighting system). All four landing directions have full VASIS (visual lighting has been supplied by Saunier Duval (France) and Crouse Hinds (U.S.).

A possible need for fast turnoffs to runway 26R is foreseen in case 26L is ever closed temporarily, but there are no plans to build them at present.

Originally it was envisaged that a single north-south taxiway between the two runways would suffice, but a team from the U.K. Civil Aviation Authority and British Airports Authority advised construction of parallel taxiways (shown on the plan).

A weakness of the design is that road traffic between the terminal area and the engineering and catering bases must cross the parallel taxiways. No traffic control system has yet been installed, but those

concerned are aware of the problem. The best answer, which was not provided for in the TAMS design, would be a road tunnel.

Air traffic control and related equipment was the subject of a contract awarded to Cable & Wireless Ltd. U.K. The company carried out much of the installation. Its subcontractors included Thomson-CSF (France) for the instrument landing system and Wilcox (U.S.) for the VOR-DME. The latter was originally planned for installation on the airfield, but it was later decided to locate it some 21 km (13 miles) east of the airport on the extended centreline, where it could serve as an en-route aid for an approach aid as well as an approach aid.

There is no radar at all at present, but an approach radar is planned. (En-route air traffic control is not being moved to the new airport.) About two years ago the Ministry decided to enlarge both the main terminal-area aprons. Concern had been expressed by Alia about likely congestion.

Each terminal has five gates with Jetway airbridges, of which the three middle ones in each case can accept 747s, and all can accept DC-10s/L-1011s. The airbridges are, fixed-head, with docking-guidance systems provided by

BBT (France).

In their enlarged form, the aprons have remote positions for 16 aircraft up to DC-10/L-1011 size. A provision of the original design was that on the remote stands aircraft would be pushed in and would power out.

The arrangement was unacceptable to the airline, for the obvious reason that incoming aircraft would have to wait on the taxiway for tractor assistance before they could park, and delays would be likely, causing severe congestion.

Turning the parking positions around would result in loss of space, because an aircraft pushed back into place can be parked with its rear fuselage beyond the pavement edge. The consultants have proposed a revised arrangement which loses two parking stands, but the considerable snag remains that the hydrant positions are incompatible with the nose-in arrangement.

The main crash/fire-rescue station has been supplemented by a substation to reduce response time to the northern runway. The trucks were supplied by Chubb (U.K.).

A spine road enters the airport from the west and serves both terminals. It does not continue east to the technical areas, which can only be reached from the outside by means of the southern perimeter road. For the time being fuel will be trucked in, constituting a major category of traffic on that road, but a pipeline is planned.

The two terminals, facing each other in mirror-image across the spine road, are joined by a block spanning the spine road and containing administrative offices and both airside and landside walkways.

Within each terminal the arriving and departing passenger flows are segregated laterally at ground level. Security checks are conducted on departing passengers prior to check-in, which means that checked baggage as well as hand baggage is x-rayed.

Entering the building from the outside, the passenger passes first into a concourse where far-ewells to friends will have to be said. A line of five Scanray x-ray machines separates the concourse from the check-in area.

The x-ray machines are designed for inspecting hand baggage: given the Middle Eastern habit of travelling with large trunks, it is not yet clear how well they will be able to deal with the passenger flow, and we did not see

any suitable area for manual search of baggage on any significant scale.

If the Cairo services referred to earlier are in fact to be located at the new airport there could be a considerable problem of congestion at the departures curb and in the adjacent concourse.

Once checked in, passengers go upstairs to the second level to enter passport control. They then pass a shopping area and snack bar en route to their gates. The snack bar is the only catering facility on the airside, and with a floor area of about 120 m² (1300 ft²) it seems quite inadequate. The restaurant is not accessible to those who have passed through Immigration formalities.

There is a further security check on arrival at the gate lounge, each with a Friskem weapon detector. Five gates in the terminal give direct access to aircraft: a sixth is a bus gate for remotely parked aircraft.

Arriving passengers pass through Immigration at the second level, then descend escalators to baggage claim at ground level and pass through Customs to the arrivals concourse and the curbside.

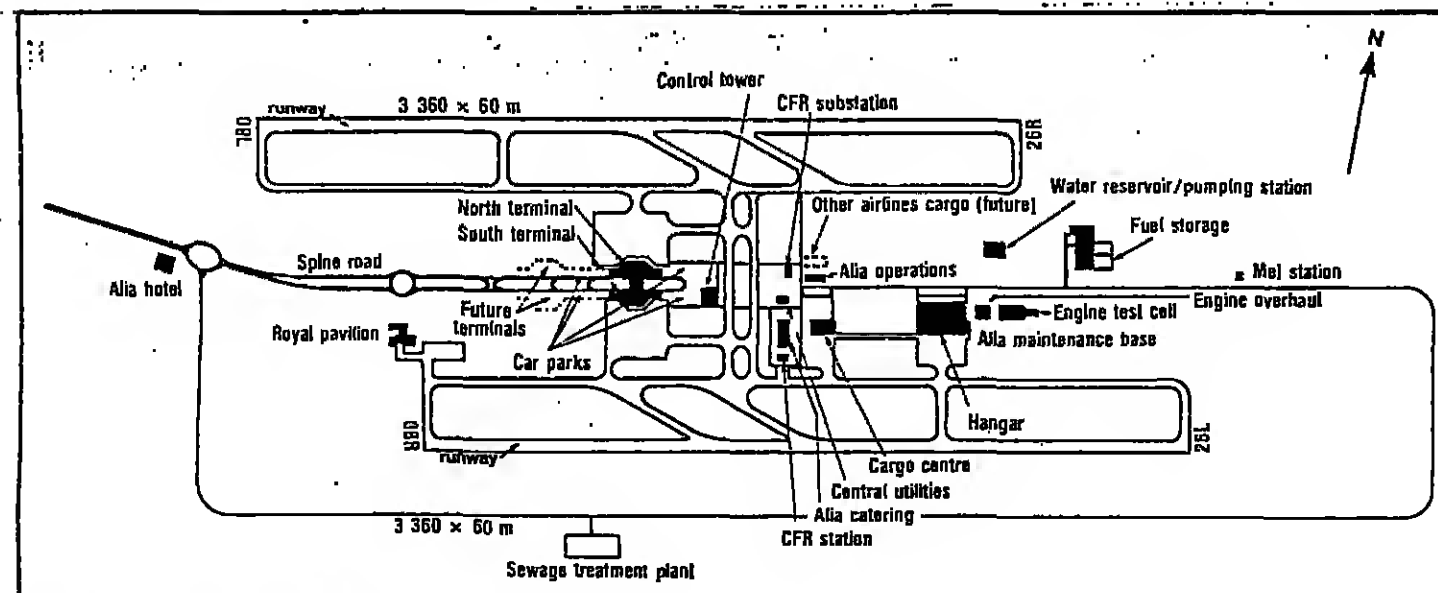
A difficulty encountered by the airline is that the planning of the building, and the purchase of much of the equipment, took place some time ago and it has been hard to change the arrangements to take into account new circumstances.

At a late stage the check-in desks were being modified by the airline to accommodate computer terminals which had not been allowed for when the desk units were ordered.

Technical equipment in the terminal includes closed-circuit television throughout and a Technavia (Switzerland) receiving station for weather satellites. The main flight information display; are the Ferranti-Packard (Canada) system.

If some minor deficiencies in the terminal were apparent to us before the opening, their existence does not detract from the considerable overall achievement. The south terminal is an elegant but practical building with a cool restful interior style.

Outside, landscaping has been carried out to enhance the approach road. Trees and shrubs will be sustained by treated water pumped back from the sewage works on the south side of the airport, and when they mature will create an oasis effect in the desert.



Plan of Queen Alia International Airport



South terminal of the new airport, seen from the control tower

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:55 Cartoons
18:15 Local Programme
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:20 Programmes Review
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:15 Live via satellite of European Cup Winner's Cup final: Aberdeen vs Real Madrid
22:15 Arabic Series
23:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:30 News in French
21:10 Documentary: Spanish Civil War
22:00 News in English
22:15 Simon and Simon

RADIO JORDAN

835 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
08:00 Morning Show
08:05 News Summary
08:10 News Summary
08:15 News Summary
08:20 News Summary
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 World News 06:45 Newsweek 07:00 World News 07:15 Newsweek 07:30 World News 07:45 Newsweek 08:00 World News 08:15 Newsweek 08:30 World News 08:45 Newsweek 09:00 World News 09:15 Newsweek 09:30 World News 09:45 Newsweek 10:00 World News 10:15 Newsweek 10:30 World News 10:45 Newsweek 11:00 World News 11:15 Newsweek 11:30 World News 11:45 Newsweek 12:00 World News 12:15 Newsweek 12:30 World News 12:45 Newsweek 13:00 World News 13:15 Newsweek 13:30 World News 13:45 Newsweek 14:00 World News 14:15 Newsweek 14:30 World News 14:45 Newsweek 15:00 World News 15:15 Newsweek 15:30 World News 15:45 Newsweek 16:00 World News 16:15 Newsweek 16:30 World News 16:45 Newsweek 17:00 World News 17:15 Newsweek 17:30 World News 17:45 Newsweek 18:00 World News 18:15 Newsweek 18:30 World News 18:45 Newsweek 19:00 World News 19:15 Newsweek 19:30 World News 19:45 Newsweek 20:00 World News 20:15 Newsweek 20:30 World News 20:45 Newsweek 21:00 World News 21:15 Newsweek 21:30 World News 21:45 Newsweek 22:00 World News 22:15 Newsweek 22:30 World News 22:45 Newsweek 23:00 World News 23:15 Newsweek 23:30 World News 23:45 Newsweek 24:00 World News

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260, 5965, 7200, 15203, 11725 KHz

05:00 The Breakfast Show 17:00 News 17:10 Magazine Show 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 News Music USA 18:40 Newsline 18:50 News Music USA 19:00 Newsline 19:10 News Music USA 19:20 Newsline 19:30 News Music USA 19:40 Newsline 19:50 News Music USA 20:00 Newsline 20:10 News Music USA 20:20 Newsline 20:30 News Music USA 20:40 Newsline 20:50 News Music USA 21:00 Newsline 21:10 News Music USA 21:20 Newsline 21:30 News Music USA 21:40 Newsline 21:50 News Music USA 22:00 Newsline 22:10 News Music USA 22:20 Newsline 22:30 News Music USA 22:40 Newsline 22:50 News Music USA 23:00 Newsline 23:10 News Music USA 23:20 Newsline 23:30 News Music USA 23:40 Newsline 23:50 News Music USA 24:00 Newsline

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

"Most Ancient Jordan: The Past Half Million Years" at the American Centre.
The 2nd exhibition of contemporary Jordanian Art at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

SLIDE LECTURE

"Prehistoric Hunters & Gatherers" by Dr. Gary Roloff, at the American Centre at 7:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267
American Centre 41230
British Council 36147-R
French Cultural Centre 37009
German Cultural Centre 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 67193
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Y.M.M.A. 36111
Amman Municipal Library 64355
University of Jordan Library 64355

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Lubdakh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

CLOSED TUESDAYS

Tel. 30128.
Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel. 1300 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel. 1.30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m.
Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 71331.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. 71751.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisni, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at Amman Airport tel. 42205-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 Cairo (E.A.)
07:10 Karachi (P.I.A.)
08:45 Cairo (E.A.)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (U.A.E.)
09:30 Doha, Bahrain (U.A.E.)
09:45 Dhahran (U.A.E.)
10:15 Beirut (U.A.E.)
10:30 Larnaca

SPORTS

Real Madrid's European Cup Winners' Cup hopes soar

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Real Madrid's hopes of lifting the European Cup Winners' Soccer Cup against Scotland's Aberdeen here Wednesday soared Monday night when West German World Cup star Uli Stielike came through a vigorous training session.

Officially Stielike, sidelined by a leg muscle injury since March 30, remains "doubtful" but the midfield orchestrator is certain to play in the final.

Stielike was given a strenuous work-out on arrival in Sweden and he left the training pitch dripping in sweat, without any trace of a limp, and looking anything but a potential spectator.

Goalkeeper Agustín was also kept busy as manager Alfredo de Stefano and strikers Santillana and Juanito peppered him with a barrage of balls from every distance. The fact de Stefano had more shots on target than the current Real stars augurs well for Aberdeen.

The Scots, who will train in Ull-evi stadium Tuesday night, have also had injury problems but manager Alex Ferguson will be able to field his strongest line-up with the exception of former international full-back Stuart Kennedy.

Although Real, Champions of Europe on a record six occasions and the most famous club in the world, are the bookmakers' favourites, much of the "smart" money is riding on Aberdeen.

The young Scots, whose average age is 23, are surprisingly relaxed on the eve of what 41-year-old Ferguson calls "our most important game".

Ferguson's secret fear is that teenage stars such as Eric Black and Neale Simpson freeze at the sight of the legendary Real Madrid all-white strip.

"We can't allow ourselves to fall into the trap of worrying about Real's great reputation," said Ferguson. "We won't be changing the way we play and I honestly believe we can do it."

The match has the potential to be one of the best European finals of recent years, with several intriguing private duels.

The trophy will undoubtedly be won and lost in midfield where Stielike and the excellent little Gordon Strachan will be pulling the strings.

Strachan emerged as one of Europe's most exciting midfielders during the World Cup in Spain last year with his jinking solo runs and slide rule passes.

He has formed an almost telepathic understanding with the fleet-footed Black, and Dutchman Johnny Meigod, Real's defensive organiser, will have his work cut out.

Aberdeen will have to closely watch Spanish international striker Santillana, top scorer in European competitions this season with eight goals. He is one of the game's great headers and his aerial confrontation with the towering Alex McLeish will be one of the highlights.

De Stefano has expressed concern that Aberdeen may be over-physical but his fears seem groundless.

McLeish, Doug Rougvie and Neil Cooper all tackle with the force of an express train but Aberdeen are very much a footballing side whose one-touch, close-passing approach can destroy the best defences, as Bayern Munich of West Germany discovered in the quarter-final.

Ferguson will have to abandon one tactic used when he took over struggling Aberdeen in 1978. As if to reassure the team, his pre-match talks usually ended with the words: "Don't worry lads, it's not Real Madrid you're playing" ... Wednesday it is.

If the teams are level at the end of 90 minutes an extra 30 minutes will be played. If they're still deadlocked the Cup will then be decided on penalties.

China remains table tennis kings

TOKYO (R) — The Chinese remain the table tennis kings, extending their reign with glittering performances at the World Championships which ended here Monday and still baffling everyone about the way they dominate the sport.

They took all but one of the seven titles this time with only the men's doubles slipping from their grasp. At the last championships in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, in 1981, they scored a clean sweep.

Swedish team captain Tomas Berner echoed the feelings of several competing countries here when he said Sweden could not hope to outclass China by the next championships in Sweden in 1985. "We may only hope to narrow the gap," he said.

Chinese head coach Li Furong, seeking to throw some light on his country's ascendancy, said: "Our strong power comes from the active support from the leading (Communist) Party and the government."

He said that support meant large state subsidies and the building of table tennis facilities, and added that table tennis was certainly number one national sport in China, particularly in schools.

Li, world singles runner-up in 1961, 1963 and 1965, said he was

stressing mental condition rather than intensive physical exercise in training national players. He is calling for only four to five hours of training.

"Ping pong is very much dependent on mental condition," he said. Most top-class Chinese players, including World Champion Guo Yuehua, world number two Cai Zhenhua and former world title-holder Tong Ling, impressed here with their cool, composed play against aggressive opponents which probably reflected Li's theory.

Wang Luxian, sports administrator of the All-China Sports Federation, said table tennis is so popular in China that workers throughout the country are allowed to watch matches on television.

"I read a booklet saying there were 90 million amateur players in China. I don't know whether this is correct, but it could give you an idea what ping pong meant to China," she said.

She added that China had a national network of numerous "spare-time sports clubs" where table tennis and other sports are taught to children aged seven to 19.

When they reach about 20, selected players can go to "the institute of physical culture" where they specialise in sport. There are between 10 and 20 such institutes in China, and Guo is a teacher at one in Fujin province, she said.

"Most of the Chinese players competing here have gone through spare-time clubs and institutes," she added.

Table tennis is treated as the top sport at most school levels. Public parks and gardens across the nation have miniature tables made of stone for children to play the game, Wang said.

Another big advantage is that all seven Chinese coaches are former top table tennis players. The 1973 women's World Champion, Hu Yulan, is now in charge of the Chinese girls.

"Their standard of coaching is excellent," Wang said.

Venezuela's Orono retains WBC title

CARACAS (R) — Rafael Orono of Venezuela comfortably retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) superflyweight title here Monday night with an unanimous points decision over Raul Valdez of Mexico.

The 24-year-old champion opened cuts over both the challenger's eyes in the sixth round and from then on pressed in vain for a knockout.

Orono was never in difficulty during the 12-round fight, using his speedy footwork to skip out of danger and troubling Valdez with his superior boxing skills.

The three judges gave victory to the Venezuelan by a wide margin. It was his second successful defence of the title since taking the crown from Chul Ho Kim of South Korea in July last year.

Valdez, 28, a southpaw, showed some spark in the fifth round with a flurry of blows but the champion retaliated with more effective jabs

and uppercuts. Orono said he was pleased with his performance in front of 900 spectators who paid \$100 each for seats in the Caracas Hilton Hotel.

"I was looking for a knockout at the beginning but decided to change my style. It was one step back, throw a punch, one step back and throw another," Orono told reporters.

The fight was evenly balanced for the first four rounds. After that Valdez put pressure on the champion but was unable to land an effective punch. Orono used his longer reach to land some effective left-right combinations, particularly in round 10 when the Mexican began to tire.

For Orono it was his 28th victory in 30 fights, with one draw and one loss. Valdez suffered his fifth defeat in 52 fights.

WBC orders title fight rematch

MEXICO CITY (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) ordered Tuesday that a lightweight title fight staged in Puerto Rico on May 1 in which Puerto Rican Edwin Rosario outpointed Jose Luis Ramirez of Mexico must be fought again.

Rosario's victory to capture the vacant crown caused a storm of protest.

A panel of WBC officials reviewed a videotape of the fight before announcing its decision. It gave no reason for ordering the new meeting and did not set a date for it.

Manchester United's boss charged with bringing game into disrepute

MANCHESTER, England (R) — Ron Atkinson, manager of English Football Association (F.A.) Cup finalists Manchester United, has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute, an F.A. spokesman said Tuesday.

Atkinson was booked and banished from the touchline during a League match at Arsenal last week, apparently for remarks to referee Eric Reed after midfielder Remi Moses was sent off.

The expulsion meant Moses will miss the Cup final against Brighton at Wembley on May 21.

An F.A. spokesman said Atkinson had been charged under a rule covering ungentlemanly behaviour, insulting or improper behaviour and bringing the game into disrepute.

The manager has seven days to ask for a personal hearing or provide a written version of events. Atkinson, deciding against a personal hearing, said Tuesday: "I will reply to the charge by letter. I was in the wrong and that is the end of the story."

"I preach to my players not to argue with officials so I suppose in a way I have gone against my teaching. Things happen in the heat of the moment, but later you regret them."

On a brighter note Manchester United plunged Luton closer to division two with a 3-0 win Monday night.

Irishman Paul McGrath, United's reserve central defender, scored twice in two minutes to kill the challenge of Luton who are in dire danger of returning to the second division after just one season in the first.

McGrath's two strikes in the 35th and 37th minutes—his first in division one—were augmented by another five minutes from the final whistle by Irish international Frank Stapleton.

The win enabled United to complete their home League programme unbeaten this season

for the first time for 16 years. Brighton and Swansea are already doomed to relegation and the third club to drop will be Luton or one of the two teams one point above them, Manchester City and Birmingham.

Luton, whose attacking football has made them an attractive but vulnerable side, travel to Manchester City for the final game next Saturday, knowing defeat will be the end. They could survive with a draw, but only if Birmingham lose by four goals at Southampton.

Prestige at stake in Albania-Turkey soccer clash

VIENNA (R) — Albania and Turkey, the also-rans of Group Six, meet in a European Soccer Championship match in Tirana Wednesday with nothing but prestige at stake.

They trail an irretrievable distance behind Austria, Northern Ireland and holders West Germany—Turkey with two points from four matches and Albania with one point from five.

Turkey gained their points by beating the Albanians 1-0 in Turkey last October. Albania's lone point came from a goalless draw against Northern Ireland in December.

Kissinger says U.S. should stage 1986 World Cup finals

LONDON (R) — Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said in an interview published here Tuesday the International Football Federation (FIFA) should let the U.S. stage the 1986 World Cup or delay a decision until they inspected American facilities.

Kissinger, who will present the U.S. case at a meeting of the FIFA Executive Committee in Stockholm on May 20 to choose the World Cup hosts, was speaking in an exclusive interview in New York with the London Times news-

spaper. FIFA appeared to kill off the bids of the U.S. and Canada six weeks ago when they decided to pursue only the application of Mexico and sent a team to inspect facilities there.

The decision stung the U.S. into stepping up their campaign and they named Kissinger, a keen soccer fan, as head of their World Cup organising committee.

"What we are asking for is the opportunity to present a full case. There may have been misunderstanding originally," Kissinger told Times correspondent David Miller.

"Either FIFA should give us the World Cup on the basis of our written presentation, or they should delay their decision until they can send a team to look us over. We think we deserve a visit."

Kissinger said FIFA's decision not to visit the U.S. was inexplicable. "If FIFA had come and then made a report on merit, nobody could complain," he told the Times.

"I understand we will have half an hour in Stockholm... I cannot believe we will be given a reasonable amount of time. We're not out for confrontation."

Kissinger said the U.S. would accept an inspection committee at any time. The award of the 1986 World Cup would make soccer a major sport in the U.S., he said.

Colombia were originally chosen as hosts for the 1986 finals but they pulled out for economic reasons. Brazil showed interest in filing the bid but could not get government backing, leaving the field to Mexico, Canada and the U.S.

FIFA said Canada had offered only nine stadiums instead of the required 12, and the vast distances between venues in North America would add to organisational problems.

Kissinger said there were "physical problems" about staging the Cup in Mexico, hosts in 1970.

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To the FILIPINO workers

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You are still considered under our guarantee and responsibility according to your work permits, residence and your passports which are all in our possession.

You are requested to avail yourselves and come to the company's main offices in Shmeisani or to the site immediately and without further hesitation or delay, otherwise we will be obliged to take off our guarantee towards you and leave your case to the official authorities and the police.

We warn you and all who are concerned with keeping you illegally without informing us and the authorities and hereby remind you that your stay in this country is considered against the Law.

P.S. WHO MAY KNOW ABOUT THEM: Please call our offices at 662493 and 669395 or the Public Security/Residence and Alien Affairs Administration.

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INTERNATIONAL-JORDANIAN FESTIVAL

American Community School, 8th Circle

Friday, May 13, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join the Jordanian Army Band, Flying Falcons, Jordan Intercontinental, Regency Palace, Marriott, Holiday Inn Hotels, embassies, craft artists, charity organisations, Alia Folklore Troupe - for an exciting day. Raffle prizes also instore. Games for children and good food.
Entry: Adults 300 fils, children 200 fils

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The successful candidate will be required to furnish proof of good health.

Applications should be made in hand-written English to Box 11440 Amman, Jordan enclosing copies of University degree and English proficiency certificates, as well as personal and career details, including

Full name

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Place of birth - town and country

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Postal address

Telephone number during working hours

Brief details of career to date.

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"FORUM HUMANUM AND THE ACTIVITIES OF ITS CENTRES - IN THE WORLD"

On Wednesday May 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alumni Club, 3rd Circle.

Open invitation

U.S. becomes full member of African Development Bank

WASHINGTON (OPECNA) — The United States has become a full member of the African Development Bank, which approves economic credit to developing African states.

The U.S. has been a member of the African Development Fund, the bank's affiliate, since 1976.

Mr. Harold Doley Jr., formerly of the U.S. Interior Department, was named executive director of the Ivory Coast-based bank, which was established in 1963 by African states with the exception of South Africa.

The annual meeting of the bank is being held in Nairobi from Wednesday to Saturday.

It will discuss the implementation of projects endorsed last year for the period 1982-86 at a cost of \$4 billion.

The meeting will also elect a 12-member board of directors from among its 50 members, 10 of them from the Arab World.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Stock prices closed above the day's lows after having declined over a broad front on selling prompted by uncertainty about the outcome of next month's U.K. general election, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was down 16.9 at 673.3, having dipped to 668.0.

Technical influences and some demand at the lower levels left some issues about 10p above lowest levels and government bonds were 1/4 point down on the day after an irregular trend.

Dealers said mid-April banking statistics and the April wholesale price index details were broadly in line with expectations. ICI finished unchanged at 448 after 442, Hawker was 1p off at 376 after 372. Glaxo closed 15p lower at 885 after 875 and B.P. ended 1p down at 376 after 370. Losses among other leading issues ranged to 10p.

Insurances were above the day's lows, with Commercial Union a penny up at 160 after quarterly results. Costain group firmed 4p to 220 after results above market expectations while Sears Holdings ended little changed at 93, having touched 94 after results and one for two scrip.

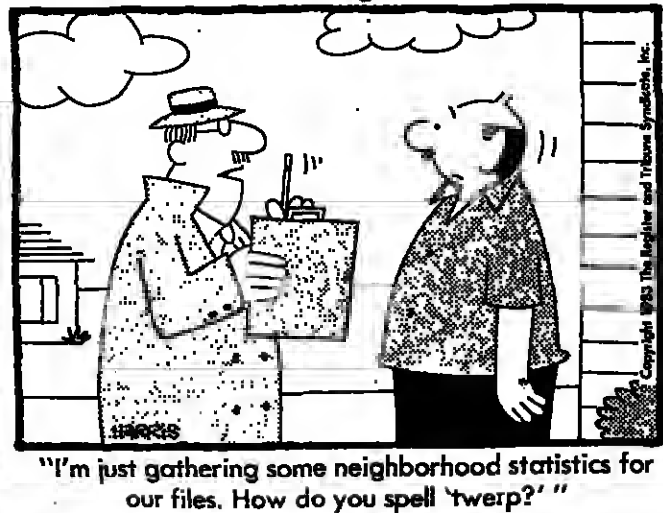
Gold shares firmed with the bullion price, dealers said.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5645/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	63.96/95	Canadian dollars
	2.4420/30	West German marks
	2.7480/90	Dutch guilders
	2.0395/0405	Swiss francs
	48.77/81	Belgian francs
	7.3590/3620	French francs
	1453.00/1454.00	Italian lire
	232.85/233.00	Japanese yen
	7.4850/4900	Swedish crowns
	7.0630/80	Norwegian crowns
	8.6975/7025	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	429.25/430.25	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: A (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RAINY WELSH JUNIOR TACKLE
Answer: Never knows where his next car is coming from—A JAYWALKER

Economist sees structural problems in Gulf states

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf oil-exporting countries face a new period of economic development in which they will undergo major structural changes, a Middle East economist said Tuesday.

Mr. Vahan Zinoyan, of the U.S.-based Wharton Econometrics, said the changes would result from both long-term trends originating in the oil price increases of the 1970s and the recent decline in oil prices and demand for oil.

Anticipating a slowdown in construction and infrastructure development, most Gulf states had developed heavy industries, such as cement, steel and petrochemicals, to fuel their non-oil economic development, he told a conference on Arab financial markets here.

But while these industries had been planned at a time when demand for their products was booming, they would now be coming on stream as demand was on the wane.

In the past, Mr. Zinoyan said, the Gulf states had been "free from protectionism, because they had no industries to protect."

But faced with this new situation, they might be forced to resort to import barriers as well as aggressive exporting policies to counter international competition.

Another change in the Gulf states' trade patterns would be seen in the area of consumer goods imports, which rose sharply after the oil price rises of the past decade, he said.

While there would be no major change in the pattern of per capita consumption, population growth resulting from an influx of expatriate labor was now being reversed by the general economic slowdown.

Thus, there would be both a decline in demand for basic consumer goods and a drop in exports of consumer items by expatriate labor, he said.

Mr. Zinoyan also said the impact of budget and current account

deficits in the Gulf states as a result of lower oil revenue should not be exaggerated.

In many cases supposed spending cuts were artificial since previous spending budgets had not been realized, while emerging current account deficits were insignificant compared with foreign assets and investment income.

Another speaker told the conference the decline in oil revenues would force offshore banks in the Gulf to become more sophisticated.

Gulf Riyad Bank's General Manager Jacques Bellut said that faced with declining Euro market liquidity and changes in the pattern of country risk, banks would have to be more selective in lending and more conservative in liability management.

But he said most banks were adapting as needed, and he was not pessimistic about their future prospects.

"I meet more depressed bankers in Germany than I do in Bahrain," he added.

China signs major offshore oil accord

PEKING (R) — China Tuesday announced the signing of the first major contract for development of its offshore oil with a group of five companies led by British Petroleum (B.P.).

The five companies involved will bear all costs during the exploration period of the contract, which runs for an initial three years, extendable to five or seven, B.P. said.

The five contract areas awarded to the group cover a total of 14,000 square kilometers and include four in the Pearl River Mouth basin below Canton. The other is in the southern part of the South Yellow Sea, it said.

Of the firms involved, B.P. will provide 45 per cent of costs, Australia's Broken Hill Proprietary 20 per cent, Brazil's Petrobras Internacional Sa Braspetro 15 per cent, and Canada's Petro Canada Exploration and Ranger Oil 10 per cent each.

The announcement was made at a press conference called by the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC).

The contract specifies work must start within six months of signing but the chairman of Petro Canada Exploration, Mr. Wilbur Hopper, said the group hoped to complete remaining seismic studies and start drilling around the fourth quarter of this year.

"We think it's very attractive territory," Mr. Hopper said. "He said all oil produced from any well would be available for export, subject to Chinese needs and China's conditions regarding customers."

B.P. said tenders to secure the first drilling rig would be going out soon. Bases for the Pearl River Mouth operations would be Shekou and Chiwan, south of Canton, it added.

The contract runs for a maximum 30 years and more talks will be necessary when production begins.

UAE oil income falls by 21%

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) oil revenue fell 21 per cent last year as the world oil glut cut sales, a central bank report said.

Oil exports, which provide nearly all the government's income, dropped to \$3.1 billion dirhams (\$14.5 billion) compared with \$7.2 billion dirhams (\$18 billion) in 1981, it said.

Natural gas sales rose 25 per cent to 5.5 billion dirhams (\$1.5 billion), it said.

Total imports dropped five per cent to 34 billion dirhams (\$9 billion).

Gulf oil analysts said UAE oil output slipped last year to below one million barrels a day for a time from about 1.4 million at the start of the year.

Pre-election jitters depress sterling, U.K. stock prices

LONDON (R) — Pre-election jitters softened sterling on foreign exchange markets and depressed London share prices Tuesday following Monday's announcement that Britain would vote for a new five-year parliament on June 9.

The British currency opened at 3.817 marks in Frankfurt, one pence down on Monday's close and four pence below Friday's figure.

In London, sterling opened at 11.515 French francs, 10 centimes down on Monday's fix, and also eased against the Swiss franc for an opening trade-weighted index of 83.9 per cent (1975 base 100), its lowest figure for two weeks.

On the London stock exchange, the Financial Times ordinary index of 30 leading shares opened 9.7 points down at 880.5, and brokers reported prices were lower across the board.

Sterling was steady against the dollar at around \$1.57, following its loss of 1.5 cents after Monday's election news.

Dealers said the dollar was affected by last week's unexpectedly high U.S. money supply figures and by speculation of a cut in the U.S. discount rate, currently 8.5 per cent.

British money supply figures for mid-April are also expected to be above forecast, and dealers said they might have a further depressing effect on sterling.

Most dealers predict a period of nervousness before the election, although the ruling Conservatives of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher are generally expected to win it.

Some said sterling was in any case ripe for profit-taking after hitting its highest levels this year early last week.

"If Thatcher is re-elected, there would be a lot of foreign money coming into the markets here, particularly the gilt (British government bond) market," said a senior economist at a major London stockbroking firm.

Dealers also believed a Thatcher victory would continue the trend towards lower consumer inflation, currently down to 4.6 per cent after hitting a peak of 22 per cent three years ago.

The opposition Labour Party has said it would reduce unemployment by massive public spending and some dealers estimate that a Labour win would mean a return to 12-15 per cent inflation.

Meanwhile, sterling rose on the Hong Kong foreign exchange market Tuesday amid expectations that Britain's Conservative Party will retain power in next month's general election, dealers said.

The pound moved up in late trading to \$1.5670 against an early \$1.5650 and New York's close of \$1.5655.

U.S. cool to Paris call for new monetary system

PARIS (R) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige reacted coolly Tuesday to a French call for a return to a world monetary arrangement similar to the post-war Bretton Woods system of managed exchange rates.

"We have not been warm toward a Bretton Woods arrangement in the past," Mr. Baldrige commented to reporters on the idea put forward Monday night by President Francois Mitterrand.

The French leader made the proposal in addressing ministers attending a two-day meeting here of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The 1944 Bretton Woods agreement was ended in the early 1970s.

Mr. Baldrige said a managed exchange rate system would require government intervention in world currency markets, which is strongly opposed by the United States.

U.S. officials generally believe the French proposal has little

backing from other governments attending the annual economic summit of major industrial powers in Williamsburg at the end of the month.

Japanese diplomatic sources said however that Tokyo favored a conference to discuss the French idea.

The forthcoming summit is an annual event attended by government heads from the U.S., West Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Canada, Italy and a European community representative.

At the two-day OECD event, ministers from 24 Western industrialized countries are debating how to steer the world economy out of the worst recession since the 1930s.

Mr. Baldrige said he did not think President Mitterrand's proposal should affect preparations for the Williamsburg meeting and he hoped it would not affect the summit itself.

He said the U.S. was not unduly worried by remarks by the French leader indicating France might consider pulling out of the system of annual economic summits if it feels after Williamsburg that no real progress has been made on achieving a common approach to world economic problems.

He added that a recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) study concluded that government

intervention cannot stabilize currency values in the long run.

The U.S. response to Mitterrand's proposals had to take that into account, he said.

In a review of the economic crisis, the French president suggested that the U.S. was partly responsible by its refusal to tackle currency instability and its budget deficit.

Of the summit countries, France may be the most outspoken but it is not entirely alone, diplomats said.

In inaugural speeches Monday, only the U.S. expressed some confidence that economic recovery was under way, conference sources said.

Ministers from other leading Western countries, including West Germany, Japan and Britain, all described signs of economic recovery as fragile.

Even Reagan administration optimism was tempered by concern that the recovery could falter if trade protectionist measures were not removed.

U.S. commerce secretary noted: "Delay on the trade front will only stifle economic growth."

Yamani sees benefits in dwindling oil demand

MANAMA (OPECNA) — Mr. Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabia's minister of petroleum and mineral resources, said here Monday that dwindling demand for oil would prolong its life-span and increase its importance as a strategic source of energy.

Mr. Yamani told a seminar on the proposed Gulf University in Bahrain that oil substitutes could only appear at the end of the century. Even then, the world would need 10 years to develop new fuels and a much longer period to use them in industry on a wide scale.

He said the rate of industrial growth in the Third World was faster than industrialized countries estimated and the transfer of technology from North to South continued "despite hindrances."

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Emory H. Gair

ACROSS

1 — safe

5 Squealed

9 Diminish gradually

14 Constellation

15 Robert

16 Escape

17 Aware of

18 Sleeveless garment

19 Bristles

20 Borg and

21 Ever, e.g.

22 Adjusts a

23 Secondhand

24 Arabic garment

26 Chemical suffix

27 Look up to

30 Indignant

32 Buttercup family plant

33 Gave

37 Mouthward

38 Irregularly notched

39 Poi base

40 Discouraging aspect

42 "Believe it —"

43 Small hollows

44 White Way hit play

45 White House monogram

48 Gyn's mother

49 So long!

50 Hill nymph

52 Kiosk

57 Actor Nick

58 Plumbing problem

59 Virginia willow

60 Midaast prince

61 Anglo-Saxon servant

62 English school

63 Gull-like birds

64 Donna or Rex

65 Went under

DOWN

1 Placard, old style

2 British composer

3 "— Rhythm"

4 Like a Wilbur

5 Acute

6 "— and nursery lull"

7 Kind of egg

8 Is spelled

9 Having let a will

10 State to be true

11 Inner court

12 Fine cheeses

13 Dalla of song

21 Calhoun of films

25 Low

27 Footless creature

28 "— Mable"

29 Castle adjunct

30 Fetters

31 Supplications

33 Claimant lake

34 Ethiopian lake

35 Son of Aphrodite

36 Lavish affection

38 Sea eagles

41 Elocutionists

42 Scraps of food

44 Reacted to bad news

45 Actor

46 Robber

47 "— and follow"

48 Eve

49 Circ

51 Solar disc

52 Gaelic

54 — girl!

55 Broadway display

56 Moist

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. TUBA

2. BASTIN

3. GRAY

4. AMAS

5. AILONE

6. AARE

7. RACK

8. BACKPACKER

9. ELK

10. DINK

11. SKELAN

12. DIAPED

13. ENJIBIC

14. SRIACEIS

15. ASCIORBIC

16. WICHME

17. M-INDO

18. A-IE

19. AIMS

20. WIMIES

21. MICLI

22. PLO

23. WAGES

24. YOKIEL

25. SUNIAITHE

26. RIAISTS

27. RANET

28. COUNIT

29. TIRANT

30. SODIA

31. REDO

32. BLACKSTREET

33. DORIA

34. ATTU

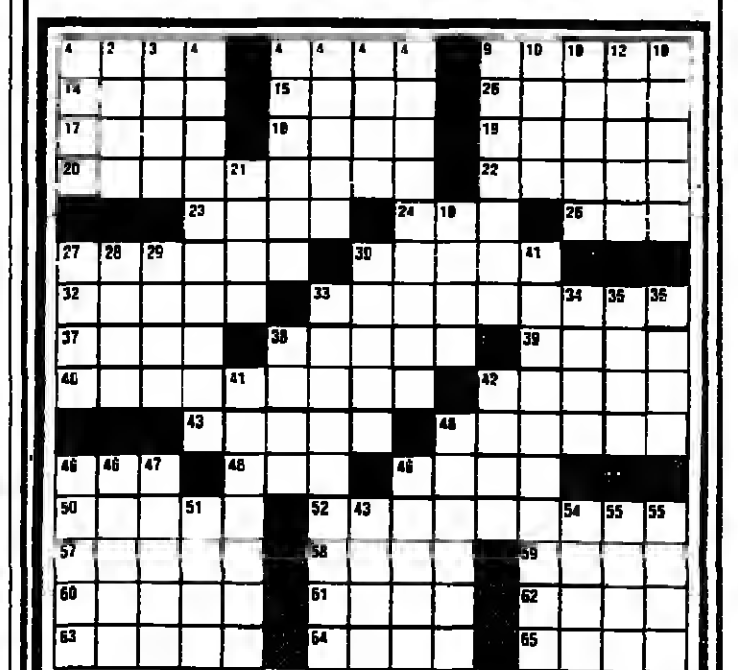
35. VOGUE

36. OKAY

37. REIAP

38. SWIDRI

39. BELLS



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WORLD

Banned union leaders offer joint challenge to Polish authorities

WARSAW (R) — Opposition to Poland's communist government has been given a new dimension with an unprecedented joint stand by senior officials of the main union movements banned under martial law.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and representatives of three other major union groups dissolved last year said in a letter to the Sejm (parliament) that restoration of union pluralism was essential if the country were to emerge from its crisis.

They also called for release of those imprisoned for union activities, protests or political convictions, and reinstatement of

those sacked for union work or membership.

The letter, which Solidarity sources said was delivered to the Sejm Monday, was agreed upon at a meeting in Warsaw on Friday night between Mr. Walesa and nine other labour activists who together represent the vast majority of Polish workers.

After the meeting, Mr. Walesa and others were detained but were released over the weekend.

It was the first joint challenge to the authorities by union figures since the imposition of martial law in December 1981. It also coincided with fresh tension in Poland less than six weeks before a

planned visit by Pope John Paul II.

The government has indicated it would take an uncompromising attitude towards Mr. Walesa and other opposition figures.

It has issued an unusually harsh warning to the Catholic Church, considered an ally by many Solidarity and other opposition activists, that it must respect the Socialist state.

The church has appealed to the authorities to mark the papal visit with the lifting of martial law, which was suspended last December, the release of all political prisoners and the reinstatement of those fired for political reasons.

Representatives of the

communist-backed branch unions, the independent autonomous unions and the teachers union signed the letter to the Sejm. It said the government's new union structure, begun this year, had not won popular support.

Official figures say it has some two million members. Before martial law, Solidarity had 9.5 million members, the branch unions 3.5 million and the autonomous unions one million.

The signatories included the secretary-generals of the branch unions for metalworkers and construction workers and the president of the old teachers union.

Mrs. Thatcher set to fight the Battle of Britain

LONDON (R) — Margaret Thatcher, the first woman prime minister in Europe, has held power in Britain through a period of economic upheaval and a protracted diplomatic dispute that flared suddenly into war.

Her adversaries see her strong will and single-mindedness on everything from fighting inflation to ousting Argentine troops from the Falkland Islands as stubbornness.

To her Conservative Party her reputation for resolution makes her its most valuable political asset.

That reputation took some knocks in the weeks of uncertainty and apparent irresolution over an election, date but that has now been resolved.

Mrs. Thatcher felt the military campaign which restored British rule to the Falklands after a two-month Argentine occupation last year symbolised a halt in Britain's post-war decline.

"We have ceased to be a nation in retreat," she said, apparently never having countenanced the risk of defeat.

"Failure?" she said, par-

aphrasing Queen Victoria. "The possibilities do not exist."

The Falklands War gave new meaning to the "Iron Lady" sobriquet applied to Mrs. Thatcher by the Soviet Union for her attacks on communism.

Her toughness earned her a special tribute from President Reagan. "She is the best man in England," he said.

To Mrs. Thatcher, the first rule of politics is that the unexpected always happens.

She was born Margaret Hilda Roberts on Oct. 13, 1925, the daughter of a grocer who became Mayor of Grantham, a town of 24,000 people in the agricultural lowlands of eastern England.

Her father, Alfred Robert, was a Methodist who taught his family thrift, diligence and self-improvement.

As prime minister, she has often referred to the tenets she learned in her father's shop and once described her philosophy as "the sincere approach."

In a radio interview last April, she exhorted Britons to return to the "perennial" Victorian values

of self-reliance, patriotism, cleanliness and "jolly hard work".

She went to the local state grammar school for girls where she came top of the class and was made head girl.

Years later, some who came into contact with her found her strident and hectoring. She demanded total loyalty, wanted to know every detail of government and inspired fear, not respect.

"I don't mind how much my ministers talk — as long as they do what I say," she once said.

She won a scholarship to Oxford University, joined the Conservative Party and graduated as a scientist.

She married Denis Thatcher in 1951 and gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl. Anxious to improve herself she qualified as a tax lawyer.

She entered full-time politics in 1959 as member of parliament for Finchley, north London. She soon became a junior minister and in the Conservative government of 1970-74 she was education and science secretary.

To finance a school building

programme she halted the distribution of free milk to children over seven, a move that cost her a never-forgotten jibe: "Thatcher the milk-snatcher".

A year after Prime Minister Edward Heath fell to defeat in 1974, she challenged him in the party leadership elections and won.

After four years as opposition leader, Mrs. Thatcher became prime minister on May 3, 1979. Her "crusade" against inflation undeniably achieved its goal. The inflation rate in April stood at 4.6 per cent, down from 22 per cent one year after her election.

But unemployment doubled to more than three million people, a level not seen since the 1930s depression.

After three years in power, she was rated in opinion polls as the most unpopular prime minister in history — but then came the Falklands War.

In the 12 months since, Mrs. Thatcher and the Conservatives have enjoyed a solid and unwavering lead over all parties in the opinion polls.

Kabul offensive reported

ISLAMABAD (R) — Soviet and Afghan government forces have launched a major operation to wipe out rebel strongholds just north of the Afghan capital Kabul, Western diplomats reported here Tuesday.

The diplomats said that for the past 10 days an area known as the Shomali had experienced some of the heaviest bombing and shelling seen since Soviet troops intervened in Afghanistan at the end of 1979. No details of casualties were given.

The road connecting Kabul and the Soviet border runs through the Shomali, a string of villages stretching 50 kilometres north from

Kabul to the town of Charikar, capital of Parwan Province.

Troop and supply convoys travelling between Kabul and the border are attacked regularly in the area, which the rebels also use as a springboard for sabotage raids on the capital.

The diplomats, who have access to information from missions in Kabul, said the bombing and shelling was indiscriminate, causing civilians to flee to the capital.

The diplomats said the offensive in the Shomali coincided with the end of a similar operation against rebel positions in Afghanistan's main western city of Herat.

Afghan diplomat expelled

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has ordered a senior diplomat at the Afghan embassy to leave the country following expulsion of an American official from Kabul, the state Department said Monday.

The action against Masjed Hewardmal, second secretary at the Afghan embassy, was triggered by the weekend expulsion of Peter Graham, second secretary at the U.S. embassy. In each case the official was given 48 hours to leave.

The Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan accused Mr. Graham of selling pornographic literature to buy rugs, a charge that State Department spokesman Alan Romberg dismissed as "ludicrous and wholly without foundations."

Mr. Romberg said there were no particular charges against Mr. Hewardmal but that the Afghan charge d'affaires, Salem Spartak,

had been informed Mr. Hewardmal was no longer acceptable.

Mr. Romberg said the Afghan action had been unexpected. He said the State Department was also puzzled and concerned about recent arrests by the Afghan secret police of most of the U.S. embassy's white-collar Afghan employees.

U.N. talks 'useless'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Two leading Afghan guerrilla leaders have described as useless United Nations-sponsored talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Maulvi Yunus Khalis, head of the Hezbe Islami, and Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of Jamiat Islami Afghanistan, told reporters that indirect talks in Geneva between Pakistan and Afghanistan had failed because they did not involve either the Soviet Union or the guerrillas.

Australian editor burns alleged spy documents

CANBERRA (R) — A newspaper editor told the high court here Tuesday he had destroyed tens of thousands of secret intelligence papers used as the basis for stories on Australia's spying activities which have embarrassed the government.

National Times editor Brian Toohey, in court to answer a government demand to return the papers, said he had dumped some on a rubbish tip, burned others and shredded the rest.

He said he destroyed the classified documents before last week's edition of his newspaper appeared. The edition prompted a midnight court hearing at which the government won an injunction stopping publication of further details from the documents.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke has said last week's publication by the National Times of the first of a planned series of stories had gravely affected Australia's security.

Mr. Toohey told the court he had disposed of the documents because "my wife was com-

plaining about having the house littered with boxes and papers."

Prime Minister Hawke has said he is determined to find the source of the leaked documents, which could arise at next week's bearing. Mr. Toohey could be jailed if he refuses to disclose it.

After Tuesday's hearing Fairfax's chief editorial executive Max Suich said he believed the company could prove that public interest justified writing and publication of the articles.

The first article alleged the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) provided potentially damaging personal material on leading Australians to the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

It also said Australia installed monitoring devices in its embassy in Jakarta and High Commission in Port Moresby.

One of the most embarrassing allegations was that a report on possible Soviet penetration of ASIO also found evidence of a possible CIA agent, or "mole".

Stern to repay magazines

AMSTERDAM (R) — The West German magazine Stern has agreed to repay \$125,000 it received for the sale of the Dutch and Belgian copyrights to the forged Hitler diaries, a spokesman for the Dutch magazine Nieuwe Revu said Tuesday.

Nieuwe Revu, which bought the Dutch distribution rights and published selected excerpts last week, and Panorama/Ons Land which

bought the Belgian rights, have received telexed messages from Stern confirming that the money will be repaid, he said.

This week's issue of Nieuwe Revu will carry an interview with Friedrich Kahlenberg, an expert from the West German Federal archive office which dismissed the diaries last week as "blatant, grotesque and superficial forgeries."

Hijacked crew, passengers off to China

SEOUL (R) — Passengers and crew of a hijacked Chinese airliner left Tuesday for home aboard a special Boeing 707 flight of the Chinese airline CAAC, airport officials said.

The plane took off for Shanghai on its way to Peking after China and South Korea overcame a last-minute hitch and signed their first official agreement.

On board were 95 passengers and crew of the Trident airliner force to fly to South Korea last Thursday after being seized on an internal flight from Shenyang to Shanghai by six armed Chinese.

The Trident's navigator, shot and wounded during the takeover, was brought to the Boeing by ambulance. He hobbled aboard on crutches, supported on both sides by cabin crew.

The radio operator, more seriously injured when the hijackers shot their way into the flight deck, will have to stay in South Korea for a further three weeks before he is fit enough to travel, officials said.

The hijackers, five men and a woman, are still in custody in South Korea.

At an airport press conference before departure, the head of the Chinese delegation, Shen Tu, director general of CAAC, said both sides had agreed that the hijackers should be punished severely.

South Korea rejected China's request that they be sent home to stand trial. It also turned down a plea from Taiwan that they be treated as political dissidents and granted asylum on the Chinese Nationalist island.

China argued that the hijackers were fugitive criminals before they seized the plane and should be extradited, Mr. Shen said.

He said the two sides hoped that the spirit of cooperation during negotiations to settle the hijack problem would be maintained in future cases of emergency involving both countries.

The Trident's passengers and crew left a few hours after Seoul and Peking signed their first official agreement.

The agreement described the two countries as the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, the official names of both countries. Peking had initially rejected this form of words because of the implication that it recognised Seoul.

The two countries do not have diplomatic relations. China, whose forces supported the communists during the 1950-53 Korean War, only recognises North Korea.

Nakasone ends tour

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone left Brunei for home Tuesday, ending an 11-day tour of South-East Asia highlighted by a pledge to expand economic and other ties with the region's non-communist nations.

During a brief stopover in Brunei, Mr. Nakasone said Japan would wholeheartedly welcome the tiny sultanate as a member of the international community after it achieves independence from Britain at the end of the year.

"I am confident that the potential for cooperation between Japan and Brunei will increase after independence," he said at a luncheon in his honour.

Mr. Nakasone, whose visit also took him to the five member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Monday promised maximum technical and economic aid to the regional grouping.

He also gave ASEAN countries — Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore — a commitment that Japan would never become a military power.

Hu winds up Bucharest trip

BUCHAREST (R) — Chinese Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang, winding up a five-day visit to Romania, Tuesday visited the oil town of Ploesti, north of here.

His host, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, accompanied Mr. Hu on the trip, during which they toured a shopping centre and inspected a factory manufacturing oilfield equipment, the official news agency Agerpres said.

Thousands of local people turned out to cheer the two leaders, the agency added. Romania was once one of the world's major oil producers and has a large refining industry but oil production has been falling in recent years, although current output targets seek to reverse this trend.

U.S., Nicaraguan aides exchange insults at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Nicaragua, accusing the United States of waging undeclared war, prepared a formal proposal Tuesday that the Security Council should call on both governments to solve their dispute in direct talks.

Jean Kirkpatrick, the U.S. delegate, rebuffed the appeal after it was issued orally Monday by Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman.

The proposal was retained in a tentative draft resolution circulated by the Nicaraguans Monday night.

This text would have the 15-nation council demand an immediate end to "the aggressions and interventions, overt and covert, against Nicaragua."

Mr. d'Escoto repeated charges that Washington trained, financed, armed and directed remnants of the former National Guard of dictator Anastasio Somoza based in Honduras in "a war by the United States against our nation."

Ms. Kirkpatrick replied that the U.S. was not an invader and that Nicaragua sought bilateral rather than multilateral discussions because it wanted to avoid "the issue of its export of revolution, war and misery to its neighbours."

Echoing President Reagan, she accused the Sandinista gov-

ernment in Managua of betraying its own revolution and said opposition to it by Nicaraguans was widespread.

Hurrying out of the chamber as Mr. d'Escoto began his right-of-reply statement, and pleading a lunch date, Ms. Kirkpatrick described his charges as "a tissue of lies."

Mr. d'Escoto told reporters later: "She ought to wash her mouth out." He spoke of Ms. Kirkpatrick's "unbelievable gall" in claiming a U.S. right to choose Nicaragua's policymakers.

The tentative draft circulated Monday night would have Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar use his good offices to try to restore peace in Central America.

Sugar imports cut

MANAGUA (R) — The United States is slashing imports of Nicaraguan sugar by 88 per cent because of its actions in strife-torn Central America, the foreign ministry said Tuesday.

It said the U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, Anthony Quainton, told Acting Foreign Minister Nora Astorga that Washington would lower the annual quota of Nicaraguan sugar from 51,789 tonnes to 6,000 from Oct. 1.

Greater U.N. role in C. America requested

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico and Costa Rica believe the United Nations secretary general should explore the possibility of sending special observers to Central America, a foreign ministry spokesman said Monday night.

The statement, issued after Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda met Costa Rican Vice President Alberto Fajr here, said the two men endorsed a wider U.N. role in ending bloodshed in the region.

Although failing to specify the observers' role, the statement marked the first time that Mexico, which plays a strong diplomatic

role in Central America, had admitted the possibility of U.N. mediation in the region, foreign ministry sources said.

It came in response to Costa Rica's request, formulated last week, that Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama mount a patrol force along the tense Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border, the sources said.

Mr. Fajr told reporters here Monday night that Costa Rica had turned to these four nations, the so-called Contadora group, to dampen tension with Nicaragua and ensure his nation's neutrality in Central America.

Argentine judge orders 30 army officers arrested

BUENOS AIRES (R) — An Argentine judge has ordered the arrest of 30 army officers in connection with the theft of fuel from military garrisons and its resale to the public, two local news agencies said Monday night.

The agencies Noticias Argentinas and Diarios y Noticias carried identical reports saying federal judge Martin Anzoategui had ordered army commander Cristian Nicolaidis to place the officers under arrest and deliver them to his court.

An army spokesman was not immediately available to comment on the reports.

The agencies did not name the officers involved, but said they included several colonels and lieutenant-colonels. The officers were expected to contest the competence of a civil judge to try them, the reports added.

Judge Anzoategui has been investigating the theft of military fuel for several months and 23 civilians are already in custody awaiting trial in connection with the case.

The judge's investigations have revealed that a firm which sup-

plied a special type of fuel used by military vehicles delivered only part of it to army depots. The rest was artificially coloured and sold to garages for resale to ordinary motorists.

The judge's reported order for arrest of the 30 officers comes at an awkward time for the armed forces, which are currently trying to ensure that their members will not be put on trial by a future civilian government for alleged abuses of human rights.

The ruling military junta recently issued a report stating that thousands of people who disappeared during the military crackdown against leftist guerrillas in the 1970s should be considered dead, but this has been received with strong protests at home and abroad.

The report admitted that some violations of human rights had taken place during the repression and the junta is now preparing a law to grant an amnesty to all members of the armed forces who might have committed crimes while carrying out anti-guerrilla operations.

Pope: 'Galileo suffered at the hands of Church'

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul II said the Vatican is still examining the heresies of Galileo, but he gave no hint whether it would eventually reverse the judgment on the 17th century Italian who shocked the church by saying the earth moved round the sun.

The Pope told a group of scientists and cardinals that Galileo Galilei, forced in 1633 to recant his theory of the solar system under threat of torture, had suffered at the hands of the church.

But the pontiff appeared to suggest that the astronomer was partly responsible for his plight because he had pursued his researches independently of Catholic centres which were also studying astronomy and astrophysics at the time.

The Pope said an interdisciplinary research team he created in 1979 to re-examine the Galileo case was "progressing very encouragingly."

He was speaking at an audience to mark the 350th anniversary of the publication of Galileo's famous dialogue on the two greatest systems of the world.

The church upheld the freedom of scientific research, he said.

In the dialogue Galileo attacked the church's official view that the earth was the centre of the universe, and asserted that the earth revolved round the sun.

Church inquisitors forced him to sign a retraction admitting that the earth did not move, but according to legend the Tuscan mathematician and astronomer had the last word by muttering under his breath: "epipuro, si muove" ("it does move, all the same").

The Pope told his audience, which included 30 Nobel Prize winners, that the church's experience during the Galileo affair and afterwards had led it to a "more proper attitude" and a more accurate grasp of its own authority.

Over the centuries non-Catholic theologians have often seized on the Galileo case as an example of excessive doctrinal zeal by the Roman Catholic Church.

When setting up the Galileo research team the Pope asked the theologians, scholars and historians to make a frank assessment of wrongs "from whichever side they come."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonn offers Egypt nuclear reactor

CAIRO (R) — West Germany will give Egypt a small nuclear reactor for scientific research as a symbol of their friendly relations. West German Minister of Research and Technology Heinz Riesenhuber said Tuesday. The minister, on an official visit for talks on cooperation in energy, told reporters after meeting President Hosni Mubarak that the reactor would be presented in September, probably during a state visit here by Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Moroccan socialists to contest elections

RABAT (R) — The main Moroccan opposition party, the "Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires" (USFP), will contest local government elections due to be held on June 10, a party spokesman said Monday. The USFP's central committee reached its decision at a meeting during which party dissidents tried to force their way into the party's headquarters. Police dispersed the group of about two dozen young men led by Abdelhamid ben Aomar, who contests the USFP's leadership, and several were detained for questioning, party sources said. The USFP's decision came after King Hassan pardoned 22 militants of the USFP and its trade union, the "Confederation Democratique du Travail" (CDT), who were released last Thursday after being in custody for up to two years.

Britain introduces seductive bus stop

LONDON (R) — Britain has developed a talking bus stop named Elsie. In honeyed feminine tones she announces when the next bus will arrive and what route it will cover. Elsie — short for Electronic Speech Information Equipment — looks like a little loud-speaker with a press button and can be fitted to existing stops. She gets her information through a system of computers linked to approaching buses.

Botha to meet U.S. envoy

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said Monday night that he will probably hold talks on Namibia (South West Africa) with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker here later this month. Speaking in a television interview, Mr. Botha said the question of a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola would be one of the major topics as well as the future course of events in Namibia. South Africa is supported by the U.S. in its demand for a Cuban withdrawal from Angola as a precondition for an independence settlement in the disputed territory of Namibia.

Taipei skyscrapers rocked by earthquake

TAIPEI (R) — High-rise buildings here swayed and people rushed into the streets in panic as a strong earthquake rocked northeastern Taiwan Tuesday. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The central weather bureau said the quake measured 6.3 on the Richter Scale — powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a built-up area — and occurred at 0015 GMT. The epicentre was located 18 kilometres west of Su O, a fishing town on Taiwan's northeastern coast.

Chilean journalists stage protest march

SANTIAGO (R) — About 40 Chilean journalists wearing gags and carrying placards marched in Santiago Monday to protest about the censorship of a copper workers' statement which explained why a planned strike had been called off. Editors said a senior government official telephoned local newspapers and radio stations on Saturday and told them not to publish the statement which said the strike was being replaced by a day of protest on May 11 because of a show of military strength near the country's major mines.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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NORTH AMERICANS DOMINATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

AKQ43

62

K4

AK83

WEST EAST

J6 10972

AQJ9 10873

QJ9873 A1062

Q SOUTH

85

K54

5

10976542

The bidding:

West North East South

1 0 Dble Pass 2 4

2 0 2 3 0 4 4

Pass 5 4 Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣.

The North Americans have done exceedingly well at the World Bridge Olympiad here in Biarritz. First, George Mittleman and Diane Gordon of Canada won the Mixed Pairs title. Then the Open Pairs, after a scoring foul-up, went to West Coast's Chip Martel and Lew Stansby. The Women's Pairs was even more of a triumph. Carol Sanders, Nashville, Tenn., and Betty Ann Kennedy, Shreveport, La., took first place and, after a scoring correction, the silver medal was taken by Lynn Deas, Schenectady, N.Y., and Beth Palmer, Columbia, Md. This is the first time that one area has so completely